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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29TH 2016

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COWBRIDGE PUPILS IN FUNDRAISER
PAGE 6

'PLANNING FARCE'

A row is brewing at St Nicholas over proposals involving a total of 117 new homes in fields around the village, which residents describe as a "planning farce". (SEE FULL STORY ON PAGE 5)

MIKE'S RAILWAY VIDEOS PASS MILLION MARK

MIKE WILCOCK.

by GEM REPORTER

RAILWAY enthusiast Mike Wilcock, who lives in Llanblethian, has passed an astonishing mark on You Tube – achieving over one million hits for his uploaded films.

In fact his number one video has notched up 176,523 views alone from people around the globe (see link at the end of the article).

Mike's You Tube channel can be found by putting in 'TheMichaelWilcock'. His son Nicholas was instrumental in the venture showing Mike how to process films with the popular video platform.

He explained: "I started the channel five years ago, and at the time I'd be getting around 200 to 300 hits a month. Now I'm getting around 10,000 to 15,000 a month!"

Mike, a former manager with C&A, started making films in 1986, and has a bank of 800 hours of railway films yet to upload.

He currently has 445 videos on You Tube, and uploads two or three new clips every week.

Before his You Tube days, he helped to make railway DVDs for a company called 'Locomaster Profiles'.

Around 80 per cent of his You Tube videos are filmed in south Wales, and the other 20 per cent are special events, like seeing the Flying Scotsman unveiled in York, and Mike getting the chance to drive a steam engine, The Tornado, on the West Somerset Railway.

The videos last sometimes for three or four minutes, at other times 14 or 15 minutes, and draw lots of appreciative comments.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

DECORATED WHEELBARROW WINS TOP PRIZE FOR SCHOOL GARDENING CLUB

Y Bont Faen pupils with their winning wheelbarrow.

Y BONT FAEN Primary School in Cowbridge has celebrated winning the best-decorated wheelbarrow competition for the second year running at the Royal Welsh Show.

The YBF Gardening Club worked tirelessly at the end of the summer term to create the miniature themed garden based on the nursery rhyme '*Mary Mary Quite Contrary*'.

The school won £200 worth of gardening vouchers, which they are planning to use to further enhance their outdoor gardens.

YBF gardening club member, Ed John, said: "I liked doing the wheelbarrow decoration. I did the fencing and a couple of the plants. It took us a couple of weeks. I like getting my hands dirty.

"I went to the Royal Welsh Show with my family. I was surprised that we won, as there were lots of other entries."

Readers' Letters

Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, at Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL or email gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

• Letters and e-mails MUST include your FULL address and a contact telephone number.

An email address alone is not sufficient!

We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail.

Road safety 'a must'

THE Vale Council will not improve safety on Eglwys Brewis Road, despite a teacher already having lost their life on this dangerous stretch.

The road is in a bad state of decay and primarily children walk this route. I wholly support parents' and other residents' calls for this road to be made safer.

I contacted the Vale Council on this matter and was given a rather comprehensive response that can be summed up by saying that it has had the road signed off as safe, due to the speed limit being 40mph.

Sadly, they did not respond to my comments about the poor quality of the road, such as flora overgrowth, potholes and soil encroachment creating poor road conditions, which increases the level of danger.

I'm very disheartened to find the Vale Council are not willing to improve the road safety.

Coun David A Elston,
St Athan Community Council, Flemingston and Eglwys Brewis ward.

Lessons can be learnt from BHS

I HAVE an acquaintance who votes Conservative and told me of her disgust at the Sir Phillip Green scandal – and how sorry she felt for the thousands of lives ruined.

I attempted to explain that if she believed her facts were accurate, she had a clear duty to urge her elected Government to legislate – so that no other single person, good or bad, could attain such destructive power over thousands of other lives.

But I could see that I had already lost her attention. That was the limit of her interest; she might indeed feel sympathy for employees made unemployed and stranded without pensions, but she did not feel even for a second, that she had any moral duty to do anything about it.

BHS went bankrupt owing £4 million. We need a law that any auditors who fail to inform the authorities that a corporation has gone beyond £1 million debt of other people's money, should themselves go to prison.

Neville Westerman,
Brynna.

Report General but not Actual!

I vehemently agree with readers Mr Harkus and Mr Reed's recent succinct sentiments. I myself find the Auditor's report lacking in transparency, to say the least.

There is no mention whatsoever about one "expensive" sub-contractor (retained since 1975). Where there is one could there be others?

The ongoing sheer wastage and squandering of substantial amounts of public money by a public authority highlights that the internal Auditor General reports are literally 'General'... but not remotely 'Actual'.

No wonder 'ridiculously insane' cuts are having to be made elsewhere!

(***Name and address supplied***).

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'The Vale leaders should abandon badly-flawed LDP'

BLAMING the LDP Inspector for allocating 576 houses at Upper Cosmeston Farm won't wash (The GEM, September 22).

Coun Burnett must share the blame on several counts: she wanted far more houses than the Welsh Government projection for the Vale – 44 per cent more – saying, "*We are ambitious*". By "*we*," she meant Vale Labour Party leaders.

They decided to focus new housing on green fields in the south-east Vale, rather than, for example, the brownfield site at Llandow's old airport.

They told the Inspector they wouldn't need any new road capacity to take all the car traffic, but will facilitate cycling to Cardiff – and, possibly, run buses from Park and Ride at Cosmeston via the barrage.

They don't need extra capacity on our overloaded Barry and Penarth trains; they don't need to get buses through the Redlands and Windsor Road congestion; they just cross their fingers and plan to duck out before *carmageddon* arrives.

What now, with the Inspector proposals worked up with the Vale officers? The Labour leaders could recant over the 44 per cent over-supply of housing sites.

They could say planning homes without transport to jobs and services is quite contrary to "sustainable development".

They could insist the Inspector heeds local people's strong objections.

And they could vote to abandon this badly-flawed LDP – just like councillors did recently in Caerphilly.

Max Wallis, Barry,
Friends of the Earth, Barry and Vale.

Empire-building at Cardiff Bay?

IN 1979, the Welsh Assembly vote was thrown out by three to one. In 1999, Carmarthen had to come in with 98.6 per cent to swing it.

I feel the Assembly was thrown out twice. Can we have a third vote, when it could be buried for good?

They want the 60 AMs to increase to 80, and the civil service would then go up to 13,000. It used to be called 'empire-building' in the 1950s - 60s.

Mr Richard Thomas, Barry.

'Heading for the wilderness?'

WITH the re-election of Jeremy Corbyn many are asking if the Labour Party is now heading for the wilderness.

Many are suggesting that Labour will be out of power for at least ten years or more. Could it be the case that the party is facing catastrophic defeat to the Tories at the next general election?

Another hammer blow is that Labour has sunk to its lowest poll ratings in seven years, now trailing 15 points behind the Tories. Many people think that Corbyn's proposed cuts to defence and his immigration policies are deeply unpopular.

He has the right values for the job, including honesty and integrity, but does not come across as a natural leader. He is just not strong enough to get his party back in order and reunite the deep divisions within it.

He would also have to work extremely hard to win over left-wing voters from the Greens, Plaid Cymru and the SNP. But the question is can he win over 'middle England' to get into No. 10?

Coun Richard Bertin,
(Independent, Vale of Glamorgan Council).

'Let's back Britain!'

PLEASE can we confine the EU Referendum to the history books, and look at a bigger picture of the world?

Do we really want to be associated with countries that make fun of our food?

Let's stick to the Commonwealth and others. Disrespect from Europe goes back to resentment in the aftermath of two World Wars.

Euro this and Euro that – what about buying British?

Start making British cars and motorbikes etc again in this country and let our country be truly independent.

Nigel Lloyd, Barry.

'Stop moaning and accept the EU vote'

READING recent letters from those in the Remain camp regarding the EU vote, I wish they would just accept the result.

A recent contributor stated that some of the Brexiteers are having second thoughts about the wisdom of their votes.

Well, sir, I voted out and most certainly do not regret it.

I voted out because the EU is corrupt and undemocratic.

Perhaps some people may have forgotten the disgraceful decision by the EU in 2005, when Ireland and The Netherlands voted no against the Lisbon treaty.

This wasn't good enough for the EU, so they made them vote again, until they got the result they wanted.

Your writer also suggested that leaders of Brexit lied – he must have forgotten that David Cameron forecast a third world war; and that George Osborne forecast higher interest rates –and thousands of job losses.

As 17.4 million people voted out, Remoaners should stop moaning and accept it.,

D J Radford,
Barry.

FREE TRADE AND BRITAIN'S DEFICIT

A LETTER in The GEM on September 22 refers to the number of French and German cars pouring into Britain and asserts that we buy a lot more from them then they do from us.

That is an absolutely correct assertion. But it's precisely because we buy more from the EU than they do from us, that we have a negative trade deficit; and if a free trade agreement cannot be secured, that deficit will worsen, to Britain's disadvantage.

Certainly, other countries will be 'friendly' towards us, but none is going to sacrifice its own trade advantage just to prop up Britain; this country no longer manufactures or produces what they already obtain elsewhere.

To hope that other countries will throw away tried and tested trade agreements, just to please Britain, is hoping for manna from heaven.

Indeed, the reluctance to call article 50, itself indicates that those in the know are aware that Brexit is a disadvantage, and are trying to buy time.

Marc Delaney,
Barry.

'Three storeys bad planning on the Waterfront'

I AM dismayed to find that the new Waterfront development includes three-storey properties so close to our splendid coastline.

Visitors to Barry Island, either by train or via Harbour Road, will be greeted by rows of these eyesores.

Surely planners should have opted for something more aesthetically pleasing on the eye, for example a collection of well-planned bungalows?

After losing one of our lovely headlands to housing, it seems like the badly-planned march of time continues unabated.

Malcolm Wilson,
Barry.

COST OF A PINT

YESTERDAY, I had the pleasure of having a new £5 note in my right hand; in my left hand, I held a 1914 half crown (still legal tender until 1971); there were eight half crowns in every pound, which would make 40 in a £5 pound note.

In 1950, just out of the army (aged 20), I could buy and drink four pints of cider (scrumpy) in the Rose and Crown, Kingsway, Cardiff, and have 2d change.

Now this £5 note will not even buy you two pints.

Makes you think!

Vivian Nethercott, Rhiwbina.

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL OCTOBER 6)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
29 Thur	06.16	9.3	18.34	9.6
30 Fri	06.55	9.8	19.12	9.9
01 Sat	07.31	9.9	19.46	10.0
02 Sun	08.03	9.8	20.17	9.8
03 Mon	08.32	9.7	20.46	9.7
04 Tues	09.01	9.6	21.13	9.5
05 Wed	09.32	9.3	21.44	9.2
06 Thur	09.59	9.0	22.15	8.9

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

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Great night out with Music in Mind

With Music in Mind singers performing in Cowbridge.

ON Saturday, September 17, the Cowbridge group from With Music In Mind, performed in their first concert at the town's Duke of Wellington.

The group and audience were entertained by comedian Dennis Lang, before the group performed some classic musical hits including 'Cheek to Cheek', 'Stepping Out', 'Hello Dolly' and a medley of songs from *My Fair Lady*.

Organisers Kate Whitestone and Sarah Miles were delighted with the evening: "It was such a wonderful treat for friends and relatives of those in the group to hear them sing so beautifully and with such enjoyment," said Kate.

Following the success of the weekly group in Cowbridge, With Music In Mind is starting a new group in Barry on October 3 at the Margaret Alexander Hall, Alexandra Gardens.

The group will run every Monday from 10.30am-12.30pm with an hour of group singing led by a musical director, refreshments, and a further hour of social activities.

For more information, contact Kate and Sarah on 07500 776295 or info@withmusicinmind.co.uk.

Cowbridge's man of steel takes the helm

A COWBRIDGE man, Glyn Thomas, has been appointed area manager in Wales for Tata Steel subsidiary UK Steel Enterprise.

ABOVE: Glyn Thomas

The organisation, which has been operating in Wales and around the UK for 40 years, is part of the Task Force working with other local agencies to deal with the effects of long-term structural changes to the steel industry.

"I am pleased to be taking up this role, and I look forward to working with businesses and business organisations to support the Welsh economy in these rapidly changing times," said Glyn.

A keen sportsman and former captain of Cowbridge Rugby Club, he is an occasional golfer and has undertaken charity cycle rides in recent years.

He began his career as a banker with NatWest, and then moved to business support organisation Business In Focus in Bridgend, before joining UKSE.

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Site manager's award

SITE manager Dave Crisp has won an award from the National House Building Council (NHBC) for his work at Edenbrook in Ystradowen, a development of 26 four-bedroom homes near Cowbridge, where he has been based.

Dave Crisp.

He was one of two site managers employed by Bellway's Wales division to pick up a Pride in The Job award this year.

Variety the spice of life in Llanblethian!

LLANBLETHIAN WI has had an interesting, varied and successful summer.

Life is about variety and July saw us on a visit to the Royal Mint. It's called an 'experience', and this is what it most certainly is, taking you through the whole process of how coinage is made, that is far more complex than you realise, and the sheer volume of coins produced is enormous.

The Mint also make coins for numerous countries around the world, and they also produce military, Olympic, and many other types of medals.

The procedure is complex and sophisticated, which is necessary in these days of counterfeit coinage, but absolutely fascinating.

There is a good museum for you to browse in and you get to feel the weight of an Olympic gold medal, (which is as close as most of us will ever get to it!) and see many other coins and memorabilia.

There is more to this experience than meets the eye – a very worthwhile trip.

In August, the whole WI group went out locally for a super lunch, which was a great success in socialising!

In early September, we went on our summer outing to WWT wetland centre at Slimbridge. The weather was glorious, and the birds were on their best behaviour and they were actually feeding from our hands. I have never seen so many beautiful birds flocking in such a small area, and with so many of them gathering now for their migration to warmer climes, it is a sight to behold.

There are otters, frogs and butterflies and the wetland fauna is beautiful. There is so much to do and see in this magical part of the country; I think we could have spent a week there.

On a sadder note, we had to acknowledge the death of one of our former long-standing presidents, Mrs Jean Hurn, a much-loved lady, who will be sadly missed.

September's meeting gave us 'Gentle Movement to Music', suitable for all of uncertain age, and everyone less able of any age, requiring flexibility, mobility and suppleness.

Mrs Shirley Dodd-Clark led us gently through the exercises to keep us young in heart, mind and body. There was much laughter, but some very useful information that will keep us exercising on our chairs and with our exercise balls for many months to come. Thank you, Shirley.

If anyone would like to join us they will be made very welcome. We meet at Llanblethian Church Hall on the Thursday of every month at 7.30pm. See you there! **VG**

SOCIAL BINGO

DESPITE the hot holiday weather, the last Cowbridge RBL social bingo meeting was well-attended and featured some exciting games.

The principal raffle prize, courtesy of Hugo, manager of the prestigious Market Place restaurant, was shared by Sylvia and Edwina, who did not have the promised rapturous welcome from Maria, 'the Brazilian Bombshell', as she was not present on this occasion!

However, they had a superb welcome; so thank you, Hugo.

This week's first prize is a voucher for two at the Duke of Wellington – compliments of Blair, the manager.

Incidentally, all the principal prizes this year have been donated by the local hostelries. Thank you all very much!

The next meetingwill be on Tuesday, October 6 at 7.30pm, in the Lesser hall at Cowbridge Town Hall.

Please turn up in your thousands, with your bottle of wine and your trusty bingo dabber!

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'CORPORATE THREAT TO THE UNIQUE IMAGE OF COWBRIDGE'

DESPITE now being based in Dubai, because I worked in Cowbridge for over 20 years and regard it as my home town, as soon as I heard about McDonalds' proposals for the town, I felt the need to write to The GEM.

The historic character and charm that Cowbridge and its neighbouring villages offer has attracted many affluent people from all regions of the UK as a place to live, work and play. That has been an important ingredient to the prosperity that the area has enjoyed and the "bubble of exclusivity" that has helped to shield the locality from the full effect of the ravages of the last two recessions.

Since the millennium, it has been noticeable that too many of the independent boutiques and small businesses that had been present for many years and formed an important part of the High Street landscape were gradually closing; Becki's, Hedley Davies, Quills, Woodcocks, Raggs, Xantippe, Martins, to name a few.

Many of these premises have been replaced by the charity shops, estate agencies and corporate-owned coffee shops and food stores that now make most UK town and city shopping streets look the same. Why have these longstanding independents disappeared and then created the vacant premises for ubiquitous businesses to occupy? Well, some have been due to retirement of the owners. It would also be true to say that there have been businesses in the town which for many years were owned by people whose spouses had been the main income earner and so the low profitability had been of less importance.

Moreover, for many years most of the independents in Cowbridge have complained about the viability of their businesses being adversely affected by increasing rent and rates costs. This is certainly not helped by the perception of the Cowbridge High Street as being paved with gold.

When a shop becomes vacant, there is often keen competition from potential tenants from out of the area, some of whom are prepared to pay a premium to take occupation in the High Street. Sadly, many businesses do not survive for long, mainly because they have offered too much rent.

Those excessive, unsustainable rents are then quoted by my fellow chartered surveyors in rent reviews with the existing businesses, whose profit margins become further strained.

Since the opening of Waitrose in Cowbridge I expect the profits of other national retailers in the town have declined. But perhaps, unlike independents, they can be subsidised by other stores in the chain, rather than withdraw from the High Street and lose face.

Perhaps there is a place for some corporate businesses in Cowbridge. However, in order to maintain the charm of the town as a unique place to shop, their inclusion when possible should be restricted to those appropriate to the town's image.

There is a difference between the appeal of the Waitrose and Tesco brands. Also, a difference between the 'healthiness' of a Greggs' take-out meal and that of McDonalds.

Sadly, another problem that the town faces is that although the High Street often seems busy with pedestrians, far too many are window-shoppers and far too few are carrying bags containing items purchased. Maybe this is becoming common everywhere in the internet shopping age?

An unsung hero of Cowbridge is David John. He and his family have not only maintained one of the oldest businesses in the town, but over the years they have refurbished premises and rented them to independent businesses, quite possibly at realistic rents in order to maintain sustainability.

I hope that the townsfolk will support Alun John as chairman of the Chamber of Trade, in his efforts to retain Cowbridge as one of the jewels in Wales' crown.

GARETH DAVIES,
(Chartered Surveyor, Dubai).

MAGIC MIKE'S MILLION VIEWS!

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Mike has developed excellent relationships with locomotive and railway companies which means he has been given 'special access'.

Over a period of 18 years Mike has witnessed the importation of 450 freight locomotives from Canada at Newport docks.

"I send the film to You Tube in Los Angeles and they then upload it and subscribers and enthusiasts are sent an email to let them know."

There are lots of railway enthusiasts in the UK, but Mike was taken aback by another source of viewers.

"I was surprised by the response from India and Bangladesh – there are lots of enthusiasts there."

He emphasised that the old days of trainspotters in anoraks with notebooks is over and that 'railway enthusiasts' have modernised their love of locomotives, steam engines and railways with high definition films taken with top quality video cameras and mobile phones.

The films are tightly edited and there are often explanatory titles on screen.

His latest clip was taken at Tamworth Rail Depot when the chairman of GBRf unveiled the class 66 locomotive 'Maritime One'. (*youtu.be/sWSovqd99-A*). Within a week, a total of 786 people have watched part one and two of the event on You Tube.

His first brush with fame was when he took a railway trip that ended up in the Guinness Book of Records.

"On October 3 and 4 in 1984, I covered 1,387 miles on the railway network in 23 hours, 50 minutes. At the time I worked for C&A and we raised over £50,000 for the NSPCC."

The link to Mike's most popular clip shows the aftermath of a train collision in Lawrence Hill, Bristol, in which the driver was lucky to escape with just a broken arm : www.youtube.com/watch?v=pUBXuOwsWQY.

Mike's You Tube hit figure currently stands at 1,018,220

LOCAL SCHOOLBOY'S QUICK REACTIONS AS ELDERLY MAN COLLAPSES IN BARBER'S CHAIR

Cadet Tom (14) hailed a hero

by Andy Johnstone

Tom Wood (left) and Colin Galton.

A busy Saturday in a barber's shop in a bustling Vale town. A regular customer – an older gentleman – takes his place in the chair for a short back and sides, and promptly appears to suffer a heart attack.

The initial reaction of many might be panic, or at least a fervent wish that a doctor is waiting for a trim, too.

But not so for young Tom Wood who works occasional Saturdays in Galton's Barbers on Commercial street in Llantwit Major.

Tom, aged 14, a pupil of Cowbridge Comprehensive School and a Cadet Sergeant in 2300 (St Athan) Squadron Air Training Corps, knew what to do.

With Colin Galton, owner of the barber shop, and passersby, they positioned local resident Eric Reid on the floor.

One member of staff called for an ambulance; Mr Galton sprinted the 160 yards there and back to fetch a defibrillator from the police station; and Tom began cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) on Mr Reid.

"I couldn't feel or hear Mr Reid breathing," began Tom, "so my CPR training, which I learnt in the Air Cadets, kicked in.

"I didn't really think about it; it was instinct and training."

Tom, whose ambition is to join the RAF Police, performed CPR on Mr Reid until a community first responder attended, followed by the ambulance service.

The air cadet then handed over his life-saving work to the emergency services, which later included the Wales Air Ambulance.

Mr Reid was taken to Heath Hospital for further treatment, but his family announced on September 26 that he died on Saturday.

Owen Jones, a great-nephew of Mr Reid, told The GEM: "Had it not been for the actions and calmness of this young man, Eric – who had had a good innings – would have died then and there on the floor of a barber shop.

"I am very impressed that a 14-year-old handled the pressure so well and acted so quickly and decisively.

"Tom is a credit to his family and those who taught him CPR," said Mr Jones.

Group Captain Roger Simon, Regional Commandant Wales and the West Air Cadets, said: "The Air Training Corps works hard to give its members valuable and practical skills that prepare them for the many challenges that they will face in the future.

"First Aid training is just one example and I am glad to hear that Cdt Sgt Wood was able to use his training to assist in an unexpected medical emergency.

"I am grateful to the family for their recognition and praise of Tom's actions which were in keeping with the finest traditions and values of the Air Training Corps."

Mr Galton, praised by the Reid family alongside Tom and others who assisted in stabilising Mr Reid, explained his actions, and said: "The defibrillator in Llantwit Major is in the police station, which is not manned round the clock, and it was chance that an officer was there.

"The officer was great, and answered as soon as I used the phone outside the station, but you have to wonder if inside the police station is the best place for a defibrillator."

This sentiment was echoed by other businesspeople in the town.

Staff at the Net Cafe in the town suggested that a defibrillator should be "easily accessible and available round the clock".

Another local businessman asked: "If the police station were open all day, then fine, but it's not, so where should it be located and who should be trained to use it?

"Put a defibrillator in the wrong place and someone might fool around with it."The GEM extends its condolences to Mr Reid's family – and its congratulations to Tom Wood.

Flying Officer Rachel Fowler, commanding officer of 2300 (St Athan) Squadron said: "As a squadron, and as his CO, we are so proud of Cdt Sgt Tom Wood. He showed bravery and maturity beyond his years facing a situation that even many adults have not been faced with.

"Tom was able to put into practice skills he had learnt whilst a member of the ATC, not just the first aid skills, but also the skills to be able to deal with and stay calm in stressful situations.

"He is a brilliant young man and an asset to our squadron as well as his family and community."

Fg Off Fowler told The GEM that she will nominate Tom for a Commandant's Commendation and a St John's Ambulance award.

Readers are invited to submit their thoughts on community defibrillators. Please send correspondence to gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk, including your name, address and telephone number.

Golden times for local couple

Clive and Angela Jones (née Davis) were married at St Augustine's Church in Penarth on September 17, 1966.
They lived in Llanblethian and Llansannor for almost 40 years.
Although now living in Kent, they recently returned to Wales with their family to celebrate their golden wedding anniversary at Miskin Manor.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

TREOES, LLANGAN & ST MARY HILL
Your local correspondent is Nancy Davidge, "Tynewydd", Llangan. (01656) 860303

Llangan school

TICKETS for the show starring the well-known entertainer, Peter Karrie, will take place at the school on Friday, October 14, are on sale at the school (£10 each); two tickets per family.

Llangan school pupils have voted for a new head girl and head boy – Jessie Phillips and Bryn Wardhaugh; with deputy head girls, Rebecca Hopkins and Georgia Rees.

St Canna's

REMINDER: On Saturday, October 1, St Canna's will be holding its autumn fair from 10am-12.30am and once again, everyone wishing to attend will be assured of a warm welcome.

It is an opportunity to meet our friends and neighbours.

St Canna's recent thanksgiving harvest service was very well attended.

LLOYDS BANK IS TO REMAIN OPEN IN LLANWIT MAJOR

LLOYDS Bank hasconfirmed that they have 'no plans' to close the Llantwit Major branch, in the wake of news this summer that the banking group is to close 200 branches across the country.

The Lloyds Llantwit Major branch is the last High Street bank branch left in the town following the closure of HSBC, Natwest and Barclays branches. High Street banks are no longer obliged by industry rules to keep the 'last bank in town' open, putting Llantwit at risk of having no bank at all.

In a letter to Vale MP Alun Cairns, Lloyd's explained that "(While) we have no plans to close our Llantwit Major branch. I trust you will understand this could be subject to change in the future as all of our branches are reviewed continually."

Alun Cairns and Llantwit Major councillor Tony Bennett gave a cautious welcome to Lloyds' statement. Mr Cairns said: "It is good news that, at a time when Lloyds are closing hundreds of branches across the country, that Llantwit Major's last bank branch is to remain open."

St Nicholas residents slam planning 'farce'

by ANDY JOHNSTONE

RESIDENTS in St Nicholas have described as a 'farce" the planning procedures for two proposed housing developments – totalling 117 properties – on fields in the village.

Some residents of the village, which has just 141 homes, have also accused the Vale Council of deliberately using misleading figures to ensure the developments are approved, and of 'social engineering' by insisting that 35 per cent of the houses are classed as affordable' or 'low-cost intermediate'.

The companies involved are Redrow Homes (100 houses) and Waterstone Homes (17 houses).

Waterstone Homes has begun marketing its development, although a decision on the developments will not be reached until October 6.

Tim Knowles, who has lived in St Nicholas for some 40 years, told The GEM: "If this development goes ahead, the character of village will be destroyed. An additional 117 houses represents an 83 per cent increase in the number of dwellings in a village that as existed for 1,000 years."

He pointed out that the last time houses – 13 of them – were built in St Nicholas, was around 40 years ago: "That was an 'organic' development, in keeping with the style and nature of the village.

"Building 117 new houses in a small village is shoehorning an urban development in a rural setting. It won't fit, either in character or physically," he maintained.

According to Tim, more than 100 objections from residents to the Redrow development, and some 40 to the Waterstone plans, have been sent to the Vale of Glamorgan Council.

"And before anyone says so, it is not 'nimbyism'. I and my neighbours accept that more homes need to be built in the Vale, although we challenge the council's need for so many new homes, including the proposed 117 in St Nicholas, as the council suggests."

Another resident, who wished to remain anonymous, argued that the proposed developments amount to 'social engineering'.

"Some of us think that any new residents might be moved in from urban areas in Barry and Penarth, and 'dumped' in the new properties," she began.

"I don't know why, but it strikes me that the council wants to ruin rural areas. Encouraging people to move, people with likely no connection to an area, is social engineering."

Tim Knowles and others pointed out that the facilities, such as they are, in the village, are minimal.

"It is an old village, with a church and a primary school – itself seemingly at capacity – and that's it. There is no shop nor a medical surgery here; there isn't even a pub."

He said that while bus services are regular, every 30 minutes or so, the cost is high: "If people, especially those that move into the affordable properties, have come from some distance away, say Barry or Penarth, then they, like everyone else, will need to drive for either the most mundane of goods and services, or to visit family."

He questioned how this sits with the council's avowed agenda to "...encourage safer, healthier and sustainable travel".

More residents will mean more cars and more short journeys, he argued, adding that roads in the village are already congested during rush-hour and school drop-off and collection times.

Diagrams seen by The GEM show two access roads, around 70 yards apart with filter lanes, planned for the developments.

"I believe that the council has used misleading figures of road traffic flow to justify why these developments could take place," said Tim.

He added that the council had taken readings on three stretches of the A48 where 60mph is permitted, not in areas where it drops to 40mph, then 30mph.

"The roads are already over-capacity at peak periods; they cannot cope with current levels of traffic and I don't believe that the council and Welsh Government have plans to alleviate the problems."

Concerns raised by residents include how the planning procedures have been carried out.

The GEM was shown letters from the Vale Council, detailing when objections to the proposed developments must be received. The deadlines are October 3 and October 5. The decision will be reached on October 6.

"It suggests a done deal," said another resident, speaking on the grounds of anonymity, "and makes a farce of a democratic process."

Marcus Goldsworthy, head of regeneration and planning at the Vale Council said: "These planning applications are due to be considered by the Council's Planning Committee on October 6. The reports that will be presented will address all relevant material planning considerations with regard to both proposals, and will provide a recommendation to members. These reports will be available online on the Council's website from September 30.

The GEM will report again after the decision is reached.

Plans for the development of 17 houses from the website of Waterstone Homes.

SPEAKER TELLS THE TALE OF DYFFRYN HOUSE

THE monthly meeting of St Hilary WI was held in the village hall on September 13 and after the usual business part of the meeting, guest speaker, Mrs Gwerfyl Gardner, a National Trust volunteer, gave a fascinating and informative talk on the history of Dyffryn House and Gardens, with particular reference to the Cory family.

The Dyffryn Estate dates back to 640 AD, when the Manor of Worlton, which included St Lythans and St Nicholas, was granted to Bishop Oudoceus of Llandaff.

The house today, however, is only one of many built on this site over the years. In 1891, the Dyffryn Estate was sold to John Cory by the then owner, a banker named Henry Ellis Collins. Cory then began construction of the present house in 1893.

Later, Thomas Mawson, a well-known landscape architect and first president of the Institute of Landscape Architecture, was commissioned to design a garden to complement the new house; landscaping began in 1894 and was completed in 1909.

John Cory (1828 – 1910) came from Bideford in Devon and was a philanthropist, coal-owner, and ship-owner.

Dyffryn House and Gardens underwent restoration in 2006 with an £8 million grant, £6.15 million from the Heritage Lottery Fund – and the Grade I listed Edwardian gardens have been restored to the original design drawn up by Thomas Mawson.

The National Trust took over stewardship of the house and gardens on a 50-year lease from the Vale of Glamorgan Council in January 2013.

After this interesting history lesson, sumptuous refreshments, provided by Kay Heath and Maria Weber, were served.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 11 at 7pm in the Village Hall.

McDonald's plan splits Cowbridge

by Andy Johnstone

MCDONALD'S, the fast food chain, is considering opening a branch in Cowbridge.

Residents and readers may recall the furore sparked when John Lewis Partnership announced its plans some years ago to open a Waitrose supermarket in the town.

In the interests of local involvement, The GEM's Andy Johnstone took an early-morning stroll along Cowbridge High Street to canvass opinions of people on the Bont Faen brekker run.

'Sarah', 22, from Llandow, who works for a competing high-street brand, and therefore did not want to be identified, welcomed the idea: "It would be lush to have a McDonald's here. Not everyone wants to or has time to sit down and take ages over their breakfast or dinner.

"I hope it's a drive-through," she added.

Tom Morgan, a 25-year-old shopfitter from Merthyr Tydfil, also welcomed the news, but said: "I personally like Burger King more than McDonald's, but anything different is going to be good."

David, 15, who was on his way to school, but had bought a bacon roll from a well-known high-street bakery, was another in favour of the plan.

"I have breakfast at home most days, but I like a McMuffin sometimes. I like bacon rolls, too, but there's nowhere for young people to get together in Cowbridge, so I think it would be a good thing."

So much for those in favour, who all were on the right side of 30.

Another three people asked about the proposal, and older than 30, had conflicting views.

Their concerns fell into five categories: noise, traffic, litter, 'clone towns' and 'not right for Cowbridge'.

Joyce Lloyd expressed dismay at the proposal.

"It's a terrible idea. It's bad enough with the traffic as it is. With a McDonald's – I've never been in one – there will be cars parked willy-nilly blocking disabled spaces and bus stops.

"Yes, Cowbridge has high-street chains, but they are all quite low-key. McDonald's will stand out like a garish sore thumb."

Describing himself as "not a nimbyist", Mike Porter said: "What's that phrase? 'Build it and they will come'? Open a McDonald's and it will be the end of Cowbridge High Street. It will be too noisy, too busy and totally out of keeping for the town.

"There is enough litter anyway, despite what the street cleaners do, but I don't see them donning waders and fishing the rubbish from a McDonald's out of the river.

"There will be queues of schoolchildren in the morning and at lunchtime, spilling out of the place and it will make Cowbridge look like every other high street in the country."

Helen Moore, who opposed Waitrose, but, sheepishly, said: "I now shop there," had thoughts on the burger bar.

"I suppose [McDonald's] will be approved. There will be voices calling it a 'progressive' step for Cowbridge, and I suppose it will bring a few more jobs to the town, but at what cost?

"There is a reasonable mix of independents and high-street brands here at the moment, and many have added to the town, but a McDonald's? No; it's just not right for Cowbridge."

Will Ronald McDonald make an appearance in Cowbridge?

A spokesperson for McDonald's told The GEM: "We are always looking for new sites and can confirm that Wales is an area where we would like to continue to invest, open new restaurants and create jobs.

"We are looking at several potential opportunities across Wales, but currently have no confirmed plans."

The GEM is keen to receive readers' thoughts on the proposal.

Please send correspondence to gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk, including your name, address and telephone number.

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'From sporting endeavour to musical excellence...'

The Friends of the Cowbridge Music Festival in the Mayor's Parlour. (Photograph by Mike Wilcock).

COWBRIDGE MAYOR'S DIARY

by Coun Elizabeth George

ON Saturday, September 3, I held my usual charity coffee morning in the Mayor's Parlour.

I am very grateful to all who attend these coffee mornings. If you are able to join me, my next coffee morning is this Saturday, October 1. I would be happy to meet you and chat over a cup of tea/coffee and home made cake!

It has been a busy month, starting with the Civic Celebration for Coun Stuart Egan, Mayor of the Vale of Glamorgan. The ceremony, which took place in Barry, included afternoon tea and musical entertainment.

Cowbridge Comprehensive School held its sports presentation evening on September 14 for the academic year 2015-2016.

I was very impressed at the number of achievements gained by the students across a large array of activities. I wish all the students the same success for next year!

We were invited to attend a reception given by the Station Commander in the Officers' Mess at RAF St Athan.

We were entertained in true military style, concluding with a march past at the end of the evening.

On Saturday, September 7, I hosted a taster session for the-Forget-Me-Not Chorus at the town hall. This is my chosen charity for my year. It is led by mezzo soprano, Kate Wolveridge, and it aims to stimulate sufferers of dementia through the medium of song.

Kate engenders such enthusiasm among the members of the chorus and I was delighted when the chorus performed a rousing rendition of 'Zip a Dee Doo Dah' outside the town hall for passersby. If you are interested to learn more about the choir please contact me.

The Mayor of Llantwit Major, Coun Sally Hanks held her civic ceremony, which we were invited to, at the lovely old church of St Illtud's followed by a reception at the old town hall.

The Cowbridge Music Festival is currently being held in venues around the town. This festival has grown steadily over the years and its reputation is thanks to the hard work of its organisers.

I had the pleasure of hosting the Friends of the Music Festival at a reception in the Mayor's Parlour.

We were entertained by a very talented local harpist, Ioan Wardhough.

I have so far attended two of this year's concerts, both at Holy Cross Church. The first given by the Doric Quartet, and the second by three very talented local musicians, Ellen Williams, Gwenllian Llyr, and Rhiannon Pritchard.

We are so lucky to have such accomplished performers to entertain us!

PUPILS SCALE NEW HEIGHTS WITH CHARITY FUNDRAISER

ON Sunday, September 18, pupils and staff from Cowbridge Comprehensive School headed to the Brecon Beacons to conquer Pen y Fan, the highest peak in southern Britain at 886m above sea level.

However, this was no ordinary hill walk, for the students were all carrying irons and ironing boards to participate in a spot of extreme ironing at the summit.

After a safety briefing, it was 'full steam ahead' up the mountain. Clear skies quickly gave way to mist and the views we had hoped for disappeared.

Not dispirited, we 'pressed on'. Our fellow hill walkers were amused by the spectacle, and at every step people stopped to ask us what we were doing.

This was our first group-sponsored event to raise funds to support our visit to the Goedgedacht Trust in South Africa, and pupils were eager to talk about the work we will undertake next summer in support of the charity.

Their infectious enthusiasm garnered donations from kind passersby and kept team morale high as we trekked to the summit.

Atop Pen y Fan the team celebrated their achievement by posing for the ubiquitous victory shot with the trig point, before turning their attention to the task at hand.

However, 'irony' dealt us a cruel blow – our extension lead wouldn't reach the socket! Elbow grease alone wouldn't tackle our creased shirts so there was only one thing for it: a picnic lunch to refuel, ready for our descent!

The sun began to peek through the clouds as we made our way back down the mountain. We resisted temptation to use our ironing boards as skis, opting instead for a gentle stroll back to the car park where we rewarded ourselves with a well-earned ice cream before our return to school, to plan our next fundraising adventure.

In July 2017, 44 sixth form students and five members of staff will visit South Africa, where we will work with the Goedgedacht Trust (*www.goedgedacht.org*), a charity that the school has supported since 2007.

The Trust works to help rural children break free from the trap of generational poverty. In doing so, the Trust aims to create flourishing and self-sustaining communities which will provide the foundations for a brighter future for South Africans.

You can learn more about our fundraising efforts and our work with the Trust via Twitter (@CCSSA17).

EMMA JOHN

Go to the **The GEM** for the latest stories and breaking news...
www.cowbridge-today.co.uk
www.llantwit-major-today.co.uk

Choir raises £700 for English church appeal

THE Cowbridge Male Voice Choir recently made a return visit to the small village of Littleworth, Oxfordshire, having previously performed a successful concert at the Church of the Holy Ascension.

They were invited back to perform a fundraising concert The church has been on the same site since the 12th century and the present church, designed in 1830, was built on Norman foundations.

The concert marked the welcome return of the choir's musical director Shelley Thomas Brown, who had missed recent concerts due to health reasons.

The choir entertained an enthusiastic audience with a wide range of songs from their current repertoire, and also re-introduced into their repertoire 'Amazing Grace', 'He Ain't Heavy, He's my Brother' and 'Pan Fo'r Nos Yn Hir', which was written by Ryan Davies.

The evening proved to be a great success and £700 was raised for church funds. After the concert, the choir adjourned to a local hostelry in Faringdon, where they enjoyed their traditional afterglow, under the control of their Master of Ceremonies Robin Hughes, who called upon various members of the choir to perform their party pieces.

Reluctantly, at closing time the choir had to board their waiting coach and return to Cowbridge.

The choir will be returning to Oxfordshire on October 15 to perform another concert in Clanfield.

Their next home concert will be at Holy Cross Church, Cowbridge on November 25 to open the Christmas tree festival. The choir are delighted that Elinor Parsons, who made such an impression last year, has agreed to perform at the concert and we look forward to hearing her again.

FM

Art Society

ON Thursday, October 6, Cowbridge Art Society welcomes local watercolour artist Brian Shambler, who will give a brief demonstration of drawing in ink with bamboo pens.

This will be followed by a practical session using the pens, which can be purchased very cheaply from him on the night.

The following week (October 13) there will be a demonstration of portraits in charcoal by Sheila Bryant.

Wick artists

THE autumn exhibition of the Wick artists' group will be held on Saturday, October 15, at the Wick village hall from 10.30am – 4.30pm.

Watch the artists at work; pictures and other items for sale. Entry: adults £1, children free; includes tea/coffee and biscuites. Twenty per cent of profits will go to Wick village hall; for further information call 07941 203939.

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Classic cars of all shapes and vintages are admired as they descend on Cowbridge

COWBRIDGE welcomed almost 200 classic cars on Sunday, September 25, including Bentleys, a rare Model T Ford, American 1950s pickup trucks, a Daimler and lots more besides.

The Bear Hotel kindly served free teas, coffees and croissants to those taking part.

PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

OTHER PICTURES ARE AVAILABLE FROM THIS EVENT.

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'A pro-active plan for council services, education and leisure'

VIEW FROM THE VALE

by Coun **NEIL MOORE** Leader of the **Vale of Glamorgan Council**

IT seems to me that there is only one place in which to start this month's column. Many GEM readers will already be aware that the Vale of Glamorgan Council has been ranked as the highest performing local authority in Wales – for the second year running.

This report comes from the Local Government Data Unit Wales, which publishes an annual bulletin of Local Government Performance, outlining the performance of all Welsh authorities across a range of national indicators.

I know that this has been extensively reported, but I believe it is news that bears repeating, particularly as it comes following the very positive corporate assessment by the Wales Audit Office.

I am sure that some opposition councillors will, and probably have, already made counter-claims, but the independent auditors don't make things up and base their assessment on facts and actual data.

Like everyone at the council, I was delighted to see our high performance recognised once again, particularly as my cabinet colleagues and I are driven by the knowledge that our services have a direct impact on the quality of life experienced by all residents of the Vale.

After topping the table last year, I said that we could not be complacent and must push ourselves to do even better in the future.

This is exactly what has happened. We have not just maintained our position, but have, in fact, improved our performance in more than half of the areas reviewed.

This recognition also comes only two weeks after the council was praised by the Local Government Secretary Mark Drakeford AM, and the Auditor General for Wales, Huw Vaughan Thomas for its "overwhelmingly positive" corporate assessment by the Wales Audit Office – and this has ensured that those of us responsible for taking the council forward are relishing the challenges to come.

None of this would have been possible without our amazing staff, so once again, I would like to thank them for their determination and commitment – but, yet again, we realise that we need to do more.

This will get harder, particularly with diminishing resources but I am confident the journey of improvement will continue and we will all use our best endeavour in doing so.

Schools plans

ONE of these endeavours will most certainly be working to ensure that all pupils in the Vale of Glamorgan are educated in the best possible learning environment.

Currently, a public consultation is under way on the council's proposal to invest £44m into two new mixed-sex secondary schools for Barry, which will replace the existing single sex Barry Comprehensive and Bryn Hafren Comprehensive schools and would open in September 2018.

The proposals have been developed by working with the pupils, headteachers, chairs of governors, parents, representatives of local primary schools, and those in the further and higher education sector.

I believe they represent the very best way of improving and modernising schooling in Barry. However, it is the opinion of parents, pupils, and local residents that will be the deciding factor, so I urge anyone who has an interest to respond to the consultation before it closes on October 17.

You can do so online at the following: www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/barryschools.

The possible developments at Barry and Bryn Hafren Comprehensive schools are only one half of our plans for schools in the town. The other is the proposal to invest £19m into Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Morgannwg.

This proposal has received an overwhelming vote of confidence from its consultation; 92 per cent of those who responded approved of the plans to expand the school on its current site.

These plans should now see a new 3G sports pitch built with improvements made to the reception area, including a parking area and external spaces; as well as enabling the school to meet the increasing number of pupils that will be able to attend the school and meet the increasing demand for Welsh medium education in the Vale of Glamorgan.

Litter fines

IN another area of development, which I am sure will be of interest to GEM readers are the new measures to tackle littering and other environmental issues.

The council are bringing in new enforcement officers during October to deal with littering, dog fouling, fly-tipping and other environmental offences.

These specialist officers will start work and will be issuing on-the-spot fines of £75 to offenders. Both overt and covert operations will be carried out by these officers, who will have legal powers to stop anyone they see committing an environmental crime.

They will work alongside our Visible Services teams, who are already working to identify problem areas and hot-spots to target.

Leisure centres

I WOULD also like to take this opportunity of commenting on issues that you may have seen in this week's newspaper, the cabinet has recommended that the council carries out a much-needed and considerable investment into the Vale of Glamorgan's leisure centres in both Barry and Penarth.

The leisure centres at Penarth and Barry have been real success stories in recent years and to help us continue our work to get more people living active lifestyles, the swimming pool changing rooms at both will be completely refurbished, along with the sports changing areas at Penarth having a similar make-over. In Barry leisure centre the sports hall floor will also be replaced.

This scheme was discussed at last Monday's cabinet meeting and again at the full council meeting on Wednesday night; so this work should start very soon, with the intention of causing as little disruption to the leisure centres as possible, so that everything will continue to operate as smoothly as possible.

I think you will agree that this has been yet another busy month indeed for the Vale Council, but one that has seen us, as ever, focusing on improving the services that we know matter to you, and I am delighted to say succeeding, despite some hiccups – as I reported last month on the bedding-in of the new waste collection rounds. However, on a positive note, this authority has the second highest recycling rate in Wales.

So a big thank you to the residents who have helped us to meet and beat our recycling targets for this year.

Tax help

A FREE TaxHelp for Older People (TOP) surgery will be held at Roz Couzens' Chiropody Surgery, Unit 4, Commercial House, Commercial Street, Llantwit Major on October 3 from 10am to midday.

No appointment necessary; to access TOP's helpline, call 0845 6013321 or 01308 488066. Home visits can be arranged where necessary.

Cottrell Park fair

AN antique and collectors' fair takes place at Cottrell Park golf resort, on the A48 St Nicholas, Vale of Glamorgan on Saturday, October 8.

Spend the day bargain hunting in Tylors Cabin; stop for coffee/lunch in the club house.

Time to start thinking about Christmas presents? The fair will be open (to the public) from 10am to 4pm; admission £1, free car parking.

£2m upgrade for leisure centres

THE Vale Council will invest nearly £2 million to upgrade Penarth and Barry leisure centres, if plans are approved.

If given the planning go-ahead, the swimming pool changing rooms at both locations will be completely refurbished, with the sports changing areas at Penarth Leisure Centre in line for similar treatment. The Barry sports hall floor will also be replaced.

News from the Highlight Park Barry branch of the WI

Members of Highlight Park WI at the Mansion House.

DURING the August break, we were invited to a member's garden party in Barry Garden Suburb, where, despite the inclement weather, everyone had a good time.

There was also a very well attended coffee morning at the WI headquarters on August 2.

After our summer break, we began our September events.

Our first event was a visit to Mansion House on September 16. For once, 27 WI ladies fell silent as we listened to David, our guide tell us fascinating tales of the house and its former occupants including well-known draper, James Howells from 1896 to his death.

Mr and Mrs Howells and their large family enjoyed their years at the house then named Grove House situated in Richmond Road, Cardiff.

Mrs Howells decorated and installed furniture to her taste, mainly mahogany pitch pine from the Cotswolds. She had a fine collection of fans and based her style on them.

The entrance hall with its two identical doors was decorated with beautiful windows of complex manufacture.

Once inside the gated Mansion House, as it is now known, you enter a time warp.

Evocative memories of visiting dignitaries including Baldwin, Churchill, Mountbatten, Nelson Mandela, Queen Elizabeth and other royals abound.

Gifts that remained in the house are displayed with charm and dignity.

After gathering in the large sitting room we chatted and looked at the works of art; there was memorabilia including a picture of doves made of 42,000 pieces of crushed marble based on a design in Rome. It is one of a pair – the other is in the Vatican in Rome.

Later David led us into the dining room where a long table was set up for an afternoon tea. While we tucked in, David came in to explain the histories of the fabulous silverware, wonderful candelabra and other decorative pieces.

One piece which held pride of place was the Marquis of Bute Cup made in 1891 of 18-carat gold encrusted with diamonds, emeralds, rubies and pure carbuncles.

David led us into the Lord Mayor's meeting room which was once the family's billiard room – Mr Howells entertained his friends there with whiskey, Turkish cigarettes and pipes.

He explained that this room is also used for awarding ceremonial titles to save people having to travel to London to receive them.

Meetings are held twice a month starting promptly at 10am and 11am to swear oaths of allegiance to the Queen and the UK.

Messages from the Queen are read and all the business of the day is heard. Finishing with two verses of the National Anthem and then everyone is dismissed.

Bedrooms are known by their colours and decorations. In the Blue Room, the sword manufactured by Wilkinson's factory in 1976, which was used in Prince of Wales's investiture is displayed.

The morning room used as the breakfast room is where new gifts are housed. David said they had "plates galore which were dished out on suitable occasions"!

There is even a sealed room where top secret talks take place.

We found ourselves back in the entrance hall where a lovely photograph of our Queen as a young girl is displayed.

The tour finished and we departed having enjoyed our day out in the middle of Cardiff, being thoroughly spoiled.

The quiz and line dancing evening on September 20 was a combination of sports quizzes and an opportunity to learn a line dance.

Some of us danced while the others got stuck into the quizzes, which were mainly sports-based.

Future events were announced for the rest of the year. A trip to Gloucester Quays is planned for November and next month, we will welcome our guest speaker. December will be party time. Why not come along and see if you would like to join us?

We meet at Highlight Community Centre (near Tesco), Highlight Park, Barry as follows: First Tuesday afternoon of the month (2pm–4pm) for various interesting events, including quizzes, demonstrations etc; every Thursday afternoon (2pm–4pm) for a knit-and-natter.

The third Tuesday of each month (7pm–9.30pm) is the main meeting and we have speakers coming in.

DB

Latest walks by the Penarth Ramblers

THE Penarth and District Ramblers headed up to Glasbury and a group of four set off, with Sylvia at the helm, over the six-span stone bridge on the River Wye.

Crossing the ford over the Nant Ysgallen led to the tiny village of Llanigon. Making their way through the churchyard of the village church dedicated to St Eigon, where they climbed uphill to enjoy lovely views over the Wye Valley.

Descending to the riverbank and tramping upstream to The Warren, they continued to the town of Hay-on-Wye for a cooling sheep's milk ice cream. Crossing to the north bank of the River Wye with its stunning views towards Twmpa and Hay Bluff in the Black Mountains and the central Brecon Beacons away in the distance, a climb led them to Briwnant. Descending to Llowes, and along the Wye Valley Walk back to Glasbury ended a delightful autumn walk.

In contrast, Robin and his spaniel Pepper took the group westwards to the Black Mountain. Heading past the salmon and trout hatchery at Llyn-y-Fan, a climb led to Llyn y Fan Fach and a stop for morning coffee by the lake of the big peak to hear the legend of the Lady of the Lake.

A young farmer fell in love with the mystical lady of the lake whom he married after agreeing to take care of her without striking her three times, or she would leave him.

During their life together he managed to break this promise quite unintentionally and the lady returned to the lake leaving him heartbroken.

Joining the Beacons Way up along the escarpment at Bannau Sir Gaer to Picws Du, another climb led to the trig point on Fan Brycheiniog. Then descending to Llyn y Fan Fawr or the lake of the big peak, they continued on the open moorland beneath the ridge back to Llyn y Fan Fach for the return to their start.

On October 2, meet at 10am at Dinas Powys village square for a six-mile easy walk taking in Dinas Powys and Cosmeston; contact Geraint on 029 2051 5278.

To follow the group, log onto www.penarthramblers.wordpress.com or Facebook. Programmes and membership advice can be obtained from Pam on 029 2025 5102.

JOY STRANGWARD

'Power station workers need certainty' says Tory AM after new court ruling

LEADER of the Welsh Conservatives, Andrew RT Davies AM, says it's vital workers at Aberthaw Power Station receive certainty over its future, following a European Court ruling.

The power station, which employs 600 people, emphasises that by making changes to its operating regime and modifications it will make a contribution to energy supply into the 2020s.

Last week, the European Court of Justice said the power station had failed to limit pollution emissions.

Mr Davies said employees would be concerned by the development, and he has arranged a meeting with station manager Richard Little to discuss the situation:

"Aberthaw Power Station is a major employer in the Vale. This ruling will obviously be of deep concern to them, as they will understandably want certainty and to know where things stand.

"Therefore, I have contacted RWE energy to ask for the situation to be clarified, and I am looking forward to meeting station manager Richard Little – where I will raise these concerns."

Keith Stockdale of Barry & Vale Friends of the Earth welcomed the judgement.

"We're pleased that RWE's special permission for high pollution from Aberthaw since 2008 has now been judged illegal. We see the yellow peril stretching over the Severn."

INVESTMENT

A spokeswoman for RWE said it was "disappointed" by the European Court of Justice's ruling.

"The decision rules against the UK Government's application and interpretation of one specific provision of the relevant environmental directive – the 'Large Combustion Plant Directive'.

"Environmental protection is of the utmost priority to RWE Generation and Aberthaw remains fully compliant with all permits that control emissions from the site and associated requirements for monitoring and reporting.

"We will work with the UK and Welsh Governments and Natural Resources Wales to accommodate the changes to the way the station is regulated as a result of the EU ruling which will enforce an alternative interpretation of the legislation.

"The investment planned for the station is unaffected by this ruling.

"Aberthaw Power Station is specifically designed to burn Welsh coal and over the years at least 60 per cent of its annual fuel diet has been from local suppliers."

She stressed that there had been a huge investment in ensuring the power station reduced any adverse effect on the environment.

"The company has invested hundreds of millions of pounds in different technologies to reduce the station's environmental impact; these investments include the installation of flue gas desulphurisation to reduce SO2 emissions, equipment to allow biomass combustion and the re-engineering of the station's steam turbines to improve significantly the plant's operational efficiency.

"To improve the station's nitrogen oxide performance new boiler technology has recently been fitted to one of its units and this has significantly reduced emissions.

"The station is also committed to modifying the plant to enable it to accept a more diverse range of international coal, which will further reduce emissions."

WELSH COAL

Supplies of Welsh coal to the site will be affected.

Richard Little, the station manager commented: "Compliance with this ruling, under continuing difficult market conditions for coal generation, will have a wider cost.

"It is with regret that it will mean our ability to use large amounts of Welsh coal is reduced somewhat earlier than might otherwise have been necessary.

"Despite this we believe that with plant efficiencies, modifications, and changes to our operating regime, the station can continue to support security of supply into the 2020s."

RURAL INTERNET NEEDS TO BE UP TO SPEED...

Welsh Secretary **ALUN CAIRNS** reports to GEM readers

WHAT do you consider to be essential household utilities? Water, electricity and gas for sure, but in 2016 I would be very surprised if your list didn't include broadband.

A fast internet connection has become vital in modern life, not only for conveniences and entertainment, but for dealing with governmental agencies and commercial services. I am determined that everyone in the Vale of Glamorgan should have access to decent broadband and that those in rural communities should not be left behind.

I have a keen appreciation of the challenges and frustrations that a slow internet connection can cause. The community in which I live, suffers from extremely slow internet speeds. Netflix and iPlayer are taken for granted by many, but to me and to a not insignificant number of rural Vale residents, they are seen as an almost unobtainable luxury.

A more serious concern surrounding the lack of decent broadband is the difficulty posed to those running small businesses as, my wife does, and those working from home. It is precisely because slow internet slows down the rural economy, that correcting it is a national priority.

For a number of years I have campaigned and lobbied for faster internet here in the Vale.

There have been successes, communities such as Llandow and Colwinston, where internet users would spend much of their time watching ceaseless loading icons on webpages, now have some of the fastest internet in the county.

To take my broadband campaign forward, I recently arranged a meeting at which community councillors were invited to ask questions of BT executives.

BT's programme of extending broadband, funded in large part by the UK and Welsh Governments, will have delivered superfast broadband to 96% of households in Wales by spring 2017.

My concern, and that of the community councillors present, was for the 4% of households who will not be covered by that date.

BT explained the process of broadband rollout, and were able to tell us that many rural properties around Cowbridge as well as the villages of St Donat's, Marcross and Monknash should have superfast access shortly after Christmas.

Usefully, the Welsh Government is to launch a website in October which will let you know when you will have access.

Much progress has been made in the Vale: we have higher average broadband speeds than the USA, France, or Germany.

But let's not stop until every community can fully take part in the 21st century.

Cadet James 'chuffed' after completing 100-mile march

CADET Corporal James Jelinski from 372 Barry Squadron recently returned from the gruelling International four-day 100-mile march in Holland known as the Vierdaagse.

James returned from the march with happy smiles and medals to show off after successfully completing the largest marching event in the world for the first time. This year over 40,000 participants took part in the march, and over one million spectators cheered from the side of the roads as the walkers went through their towns.

This created an immense atmosphere as music, applause and screams of encouragement kept morale high in the team throughout the four days. On Friday, thousands of people line last few kilometers of road before the finish to cheer on the walkers.

That street, the St Annastraat, is dubbed 'Via Gladiola' for the day (the gladiola is the official flower of the marches, and it is tradition to give them to the participants).

The cadets not only had the chance to experience the thrill of taking part in the march but they also had a chance to visit Amsterdam and local sites. They met with many teams from all over the world and even had a chance to talk with Air Commodore Dawn McCafferty (Commandant Air Cadets) at the beginning of day four.

Their days began with early rises of about 3am and the teams set off around 4am! This allowed the team to complete the majority of the march in the cool morning, and they had completed their days march by 3pm, which allowed them to sleep until the following morning. The weather proved temperamental, with 90 per cent humidity, yet light showers with patches of sunshine.

To qualify and make the Nijmegen team, each cadet had to complete RAF WARMA, a 50-mile march held at RAF Cosford. This then allowed James to be one of the 12 selected for the 2016 Nijmegen team.

One of the team leaders, Flight Lieutenant Daryl Summerhayes, commented: "The Nijmegen four day marches are about the toughest activity Air Cadets can routinely take part in. It requires great stamina and endurance to complete this hundred miles march, and is probably one of the most physically demanding things James will ever do!"

On completing the march James said: "I was really tired after marching 100 miles; but I was really chuffed in the end. When I was presented with my medal, that's when my achievement really sunk in. I can't wait to go again next year".

James is now looking forward to an action packed programme of flying, gliding, shooting, sport and adventure training along with many more exciting and challenging activities at 372 Barry Squadron.

If you have a spirit for adventure, 372 (Barry) Squadron has vacancies for boys and girls between 13-18 years old. The Squadron parade on Mondays and Wednesdays (7pm-9.30pm) behind Adams Funeral Parlour or your can phone the Squadron on 07486 501864 email oc.372@aircadets.org or visit www.372squadron.org.uk for more information.

Young soprano joins the choir

TALENTED young soprano Jessica Robinson will join Barry Male Voice Choir as soloist at their concert tonight (September 29) at 7.30pm in Trinity Hall, Trinity Street, Barry.

Soprano Jessica Robinson.

Jess began her singing career at a young age as a competitor in local eisteddfodau in her native Pembrokeshire and is currently in her final year as a Masters student on the opera course at Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama.

A personal highlight for Jessica was being asked to perform for the Welsh rugby team at the Welsh Assembly during a reception celebrating success in the Six Nations Championship.

At next month's Male Choir Festival in London's Royal Albert Hall, she will be reunited with Barry Male Voice Choir as one of the soloists. Tickets £5 on the door.

FoE meeting

BARRY & Vale Friends of the Earth's meeting at the Castle Hotel on November 4 will discuss the Euro decision to stop the pollution permit for Aberthaw power station; construction noise from the Barry Dock incinerator; the Coity waste-wood fire; and online improvements at Five Mile Lane.

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Swci Delic yn creu celf gofiadwy i gefnogi Diwrnod Shwmae Su'mae

BYDD Diwrnod Shwmae Su'mae eleni yn siŵr o ddal eich llygaid.

Mae'r artist Swci Delic, un o bencampwyr yr ymgyrch, wedi creu celf arbennig i dynnu sylw at yr achlysur a gynhelir ar ddydd Sadwrn 15 Hydref. Mae Swci yn adnabyddus am ei chelf liwgar, gofiadwy ac yn arbenigo mewn creu cynfasau enfawr.

Bydd y darn, sy'n dilyn steil unigryw, celf 'bop' Swci, yn nodwedd amlwg o ymgyrch Shwmae Su'mae 2016. Bydd cyfle i'r rhai sy'n mynychu un o'r cannoedd o ddigwyddiadau ar draws y wlad dderbyn y dyluniad trawiadol ar gerdyn post. Nifer cyfyngedig caiff eu hargraffu, ac fe'u dosbarthir ar sail gyntaf i'r felin. Bydd cyfle i bawb fwynhau'r gwaith ar gyfryngau cymdeithasol, anogir y cyhoedd i'w rannu'n eang i godi ymwybyddiaeth o'r dydd.

Meddai Swci: "Mae'n anrhydedd bod yn bencampwyr Diwrnod Shwmae Su'mae gan fod yr iaith Gymraeg yn hynod bwysig i mi. Pan gefais y gwahoddiad, penderfynais ddangos fy nghefnogaeth trwy wneud be fi'n hoffi gwneud fwyaf, peintio. Roeddwn eisiau atgoffa pobl mewn ffordd gofiadwy.

"Rwy'n gobeithio bydd y darlun yn tynnu sylw, ysgogi pobl i ddarganfod mwy am y dydd a chymryd rhan.

"Rwy'n hoffi'r ffaith fod Diwrnod Shwmae Su'mae yn gyfle i bawb gofleidio'r iaith Gymraeg trwy ddod at ei gilydd i ddathlu a chael hwyl. Mae'r dydd yn agored i bawb; dysgwyr, pobl ddi-gymraeg neu'n rhugl, does dim ots. Mae'n bosib i bawb geisio cyfarch ei gilydd yn Gymraeg a sbarduno eraill wrth wneud."

Swci Delic's striking art gets Shwmae Su'mae Day noticed

SHWMAE Su'mae day on Saturday, October 15 will not go unnoticed as a psychedelic piece of art has been created to mark the occasion.

Artist and Shwmae Su'mae champion, Swci Delic, set about creating a special piece that is certain to grab attention using her trademark mix of vibrant colours and patterns.

Swci's eye catching artwork will be a key feature of this year's Shwmae Su'mae campaign. A limited number of postcards featuring the special design will be available at numerous events across the country on October 15. It will also be shared widely on social media.

Swci said: "I was thrilled to be invited to champion Shwmae Su'mae Day. I decided I would show my support and help spread the word by doing what I love to do – paint. I wanted to create a memorable reminder that would make people smile.

"The Welsh language is so important to me. Being a part of this campaign is exciting as it is about celebrating, together. It doesn't matter if you are fluent, a learner or don't speak Welsh at all – anyone can try a Shwmae or Su'mae.

"Greeting each other in Welsh is a small gesture, but, if we all do it every day, everywhere we go it has the potential to have a huge impact."

To find out what's on in your area on Shwmae Su'mae Day or for tips on planning your own event, go to www.shwmae.cymru.

HEOL-Y-CYW BLAZE CAUSES CONCERN

THE fire at the South Wales Wood Recycling centre near Heol-y-Cyw is causing a great deal of concern among residents, who feel under-informed about such an incident on their doorstep, and what the authorities are doing to tackle the situation.

As the secretary of the Heol-y-Cyw Workingmen's Club and a Pencoed town councillor, I have written to both Natural Resources Wales, the lead body investigating the cause of the fire, and Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) to express my concerns on behalf of residents in Heol-y-Cyw and Pencoed and to request an urgent update.

Even before the fire, residents were concerned about the number, frequency and speed of the lorries travelling through the village and are now apprehensive about the potential for the fire to spread and the environmental and health effects of the fumes and wood dust which are engulfing the villages.

As this is the third fire experienced by South Wales Wood Recycling in the last 12 months, I will now be campaigning for the relocation of the plant away from the village of Heol-y-Cyw and for more robust health and environmental safeguards to be put in place in relation to this industry.

Finally, I would like to convey my thanks to South Wales Fire and Rescue Service for their ongoing work in tackling the blaze and in investigating the cause of the fire.

ALEX WILLIAMS

'Take Five' to help prevent financial fraud

SOUTH Wales Police are supporting the launch of a major new campaign designed to tackle financial fraud.

The campaign – Take Five –aims to put consumers and businesses in control with straightforward advice to help prevent financial fraud, and encourage people to take a moment to'stop and think'.

Take Five is the first national campaign to be backed by all the major banks and other financial service providers across the UK.

Lending their support to Take Five, South Wales Police Detective Inspector Paul Giess said: "Financial fraud can affect anyone and incidents are on the increase. That's why the Take Five campaign is so important and we're proud to support it.

"We urge everyone to take a moment and help take back control. If you get any calls, texts or emails out of the blue asking for your personal or financial details always stop and think."

Katy Worobec, director of Financial Fraud Action UK who created the campaign, said: "The industry is already taking action on fraud, last year our members stopped £7 in every £10 of fraud taking place. However, we know that criminals are getting increasingly sophisticated in their tactics and that's why we are launching Take Five. We want everyone to take a moment to pause and think to help stop fraud."

Everyone can help protect themselves from financial fraud by remembering some simple advice:

- Never disclose security details, such as your PIN or full password. It's never okay to reveal these details.
- *Don't assume an email request or caller is genuine. People aren't always who they say they are.*
- Don't be rushed. A genuine bank or organisation won't mind waiting to give you time to stop and think.
- Listen to your instincts. If something feels wrong, then it is usually right to pause and question it.
- *Stay in control. Have the confidence to refuse unusual requests for information.*

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Rhodrey doesn't let a little thing like a missing leg hold him back!

STAFF at Dogs Trust Bridgend are hoping that the success of local Paralympian, Aled Davies, will help find a golden home for one of their own talented paralympian pups!

Five-year-old terrier crossbreed, Rhodrey, has never let a missing leg hold him back and enjoys endless games of fetch and run after tennis balls.

The terrier tearaway has been through a lot already; he sadly lost his leg after being shot in a hunting accident. Despite his ordeal, he is a happy, energetic dog, hoping to find an active home with owners who will enjoy keeping this fitness fanatic entertained.

Rhiannon Chamberlain, Dogs Trust Bridgend Supporter Relations Officer, explained: "Rhodrey is such a great character and his boundless enthusiasm for life has made him a firm favourite with staff and volunteers at the centre.

"Some people will overlook any dogs that have any slight health problem, but Rhodrey's lively, affectionate personality means that many people don't notice his missing leg. He certainly hasn't noticed and never lets it slow him down."

However, she added: "This spirited terrier struggles in new situations and will be best suited to an adult-only home and an owner with the experience and patience to invest time in him to form good attachments."

If you would like to give Rhodrey a home, or are interested in rehoming another rescue dog, call the Rehoming Centre on 0300 303 0292, or visit at Court Colman, Pen-Y-Fai, Bridgend, Mid Glamorgan, CF31 4NG.

Rhodrey (above) is looking for a home.

CRC team hosts Evolving Communities workshop

CREATIVE Rural Communities (CRC), the Vale of Glamorgan Council's rural regeneration initiative, are inviting people to come forward with innovative ideas that have the potential to take communities and enterprises in the rural Vale in new, exciting directions.

Under the theme 'Evolving Communities', the CRC team now aims to support residents in the rural Vale (excluding Barry, Penarth and Llandough) to map out their community's needs and trial new ways of meeting these.

To help stimulate ideas, the team is organising a workshop on Wednesday, October 19 from 9.30am to 3.30pm at St Athan Community Centre with lunch provided. Everyone in the rural Vale who is involved with community groups, voluntary organisations, service providers or individuals active in their local community is welcome.

Coun Lis Burnett, cabinet member for regeneration and education, said: "The CRC team has a great track record of working with local communities to develop innovative projects that create long-term social and economic benefits for the rural Vale.

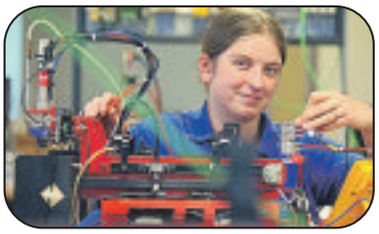
"This new initiative offers yet another opportunity for communities to identify their own priorities and work with us to explore new ways of delivering services."

If you would like to attend, contact the CRC team on 01446 704226, or create@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk to book your place. For more, visit www.CreativeRuralCommunities.co.uk.

This project has received funding through the Welsh Government Rural Communities – Rural Development Programme 2014-2020, which is funded by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development, the Welsh Government, and by the Vale of Glamorgan Council.

MARIA'S CAREER IS IN TOP GEAR!

RIGHT: Apprentice of the year finalist, Maria Brooks.



MARIA BROOKS has become the first female adult apprentice taken on at Ford's Bridgend plant, thanks to the Welsh Government's apprenticeship programme.

Working on the production line at Ford gave Maria (28), from Porthcawl, an interest about how engines were built, operated and controlled. Already an honours graduate in forensic chemistry, her four-year apprenticeship, provided by Bridgend College, will gain her a Higher National Certificate (HNC) in electrical engineering from the University of South Wales.

As a reward for her success, she has been shortlisted for the Apprentice of the Year award at this year's Apprenticeship Awards Cymru, which take place at Venue Cymru, Llandudno on October 20.

Maria said: "I have had the great fortune to work on a variety of projects during my time with the company. These have included relocating a robot to enable it to be trained in-house, and setting up an electro-pneumatic rig to support other electrical apprentices. This was a big project for me as it was one I could take the lead on."

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Bridgend Ford on meeting agenda

THE First Minister, Carwyn Jones, AM for Bridgend, and Economy Secretary, Ken Skates, met the vice president of Ford Europe, Linda Cash, to discuss the future of the Ford site in Bridgend last week.

Mr Jones said: "I was pleased to meet Linda Cash and her senior team to talk about the future of the Ford Engine plant. It was a productive meeting in which we discussed plans for investment at the site and ways in which we can protect manufacturing and jobs at Bridgend into the long-term.

"We all agreed that the plant is a vital part of the Welsh manufacturing economy and we reiterated to Ford that Welsh Government stands ready to help in any way that it can to support the factory and the workforce.

"Ford has been an important presence in Bridgend over the last three decades, producing 20 million high-quality engines and supporting thousands of excellent, well paid jobs. We all want production at the site to continue long into the future."

New website will help young hone skills for work

A NEW website to help young people deveop skills for work has been launched by not-for-rofit company, Welsh Water, in the presence of Welsh Government cabinet secretary for education, Kirsty Williams AM, teachers and pupils at Cardiff and Vale College.

The website developed in partnership by Welsh Water's education team and a teacher seconded from Cardiff and Vale College, focuses on helping young people develop skills which businesses need.

It also helps showcase Welsh Water's campaigns and career options available in the water industry.

It forms part of the Welsh Baccalaureate is delivered by schools, colleges and training providers across Wales.

Miniaturist group display

THE Mid Glamorgan Dolls' House and Miniaturist group will support Noah's Ark Children's Hospital charity with their annual Dolls' House exhibition.

This will take place on October 8 from 10am – 4.30pm at the Town Hall in Cowbridge.

Entry £1 adults, children over five, 50p. Displays, sales tables and light refreshments.

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EXPERTS' CONCERN AT FIRST SIGHTING OF 'ASIAN HORNET' IN UNITED KINGDOM

PEST experts are urging residents in the Vale and Bridgend to be vigilant following the first sighting of an Asian hornet in the UK.

The invasive species that preys on honey bees was spotted in Gloucestershire earlier this week and attempts are under way to find and destroy its nests.

The British Pest Control Association (BPCA) says confirmed sightings in both the Channel Islands and now mainland Britain mean that many more are likely to be found and the national trade body are calling on people who discover them to act responsibly.

The hornet, said to pose a very real threat to native species of bees, is already common across Europe and officials anticipating its arrival in this country for several years have set up a protocol designed to eradicate them.

Simon Forrester, chief executive of the BPCA, said: "Professional pest controllers have been aware of the threat posed by Asian hornets, alongside other invasive species, for some time.

"The BPCA and its members form the first alert to these threats and are often called in to deal with such pests.

"The first sighting will almost certainly not be the last, but if people report them sensibly then major problems can be avoided.

"Our members will do everything they can to maintain the health of our honey bee population and can be called upon to deal sensitively with any situation that arises."

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) has set up a three-mile surveillance zone and a 'species alert' has been issued.

Nicola Spence, Defra's deputy director for plant and bee health, said: "We have been anticipating the arrival of the Asian hornet for some years and have a well-established protocol in place to eradicate them and control any potential spread.

"It's important to remember they pose no greater risk to human health than a bee, though we recognise the damage they can cause to honeybee colonies. That's why we are taking swift and robust action to identify and destroy any nests."

The distinctive hornet, smaller than the native species, is most likely to be found in southern parts of England, but could also be accidentally imported among goods such as soil with pot plants, cut flowers, fruit and timber.

Its active months are between April and November, though it is inactive over winter.

Sightings should be sent with a photograph and local details to *alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk*.

What does it look like?

DISTINCTIVE hornet, smaller than our native European Hornet species. A key feature is the almost entirely dark abdomen, except for the fourth segment, which is yellow.

Bright yellow tips to legs (native hornet dark); Entirely brown or black thorax (native hornets are more orange); workers can be up to 25mm in length.

AM hears about community hub for veterans plan

Jane Hutt with Russ Kiteley and Noel Godfrey.

THE Vale AM, Jane Hutt, and the First Minister Carwyn Jones, AM for Bridgend, attended Dame Eileen Younghusband's moving funeral last week.

She met Barry veteran Russ Kiteley from Group 617, who related plans to develop a 'community hub' for service veterans.

She had a further meeting with Russ Kiteley and Noel Godfrey later to hear more about the needs of veterans and Armed Forces Covenant meetings at the Vale Council.

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MATES IN CONCERT AT ST DONATS

'LABEL Mates' Boo Hewerdine and Dan Whitehouse will be in concert at St Donats Art Centre today (Friday, September 30) at 7.30pm.

Bob Hewerdine is a songwriter/performer whose album 'Open' received five star reviews.

Dan Whitehouse signed to Reveal Records in 2015 and started work on his new soulful album 'That's Where I Belong', released earlier this month.

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Caiff y digwyddiad unigryw hwn ei gynnal o fewn lleoliad ysblennydd muriau'r ardd, gyda chynhyrchiad gwych ar sgrin sinema chwyddadwy fawr, sain theatr, bar coctels â thema, gwerthwyr bwyd a cherddoriaeth fyw cyn bod yr haul yn machlud. O 6pm tan 11pm, bydd y ffi lm yn dechrau tua 9pm (Machlud Haul).

8 Hydref – Gwyl Slow Food™
(Digwyddiad agored)

Dewch i Flasu, Dysgu, Bwyta, Gwylio, Archwilio, Rhannu, Siopa, Gwrando, Yfed, Mwynhau, Clywed, Arogli, Cyfarfod a chael hwyl yn gwirioni ar fwyd! Mwynhewch Ŵyl gyda chynhyrchwyr bwyd a diod crefftus, sgyrsiau am fwyd, arddangosiadau coginio, bwytai dros dro a mwy. Slow Food – yn dod â phobl a bwyd da ynghyd! 10am – 4pm.

15 Hydref
Gwyl Bwyd a Diod yr Ardd Hydrefol
(Digwyddiad mynediad trwy docyn)

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Mae'r holl ddigwyddiadau yn cael eu cynnal ym Mae Dwnrhefn, Southerndown, Bro Morgannwg.

I gael rhagor o wybodaeth am y sesiwn peilot dros dro ac i brynu tocynnau ar gyfer unrhyw un o'r digwyddiadau, ewch i valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/popupvale #popupvale

** nodir y gallai digwyddiadau gael eu canslo ar fyr rybudd a bod mynediad ar gyfer pobl anablyn gyfyngedig ar gyfer rhai o'r digwyddiadau oherwydd yr amgylchedd naturiol.*

16th & 17th September
Lost Lands beach cinema
(Ticketed Event)

This one of a kind event will take place inside the spectacular setting of the garden walls, with fantastic production on a large inflatable cinema screen, theatre sound, themed cocktail bar, food vendors and live music before sunset. 6pm – 11pm, film starting at approximately 9pm (Sunset).

8th October
Slow Food™ Fest
(Open Event)

Come and Taste, Learn, Eat, Watch, Explore, Share, Shop, Listen, Drink, Enjoy, Hear, Smell, Meet, and have foodie fun!

Enjoy a Fest with artisan food and drink producers, food talks, cooking demos, restaurant pop-ups and more. Slow Food - bringing people and good food together! 10am – 4pm.

15th October
Autumn Garden Festival of Food and Drink
(Ticketed Event)

An Autumnal sense adventure showcasing local, small scale independent producers of food and drink, live local musicians and arts in the stunning, historic walled gardens of Dunraven. 12pm-9pm.

All events are taking place at Dunraven Bay, Southerndown, The Vale of Glamorgan.

For more information about the pop-up pilot and to purchase tickets or any of the events, please visit: valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/popupvale #popupvale

** please note events could be cancelled at short notice & disability access is limited to some of the events due to the natural environment.*

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Out & About with The GEM

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The Magnificent Seven remake is pretty, well... MAGNIFICENT!

ONE of the more infamous pub quiz questions is – name all of the *Magnificent Seven*; well, that question will take on a new meaning as John Sturges' classic Western receives the almost *de-rigeur* 21st century update.

Keeping the same title and the same plot, this *Magnificent Seven* sees a town come under threat from Peter Sarsgaard's wonderfully monikered Bartholomew Bogue, with his plan to industrialise the town – and no-one dare get in his way.

Desperate, Emma Cullen (Haley Bennett) travels to recruit seven loosely-moraled hired guns (led by Denzel Washington, with Chris Pratt, Ethan Hawke, Vincent D'Onorofio, Byung-hun Lee, Martin Sensmeier and Manuel Garcia-Rulfo) to defend their town from Bogue and his own mercenary unit...

Remaking a film these days is par-for-the-course; remaking a classic film is a whole new ball game. As those behind *Ghostbusters* discovered earlier this year, mess with a beloved property and prepare yourself for the criticisms and hate before the films has even been shown.

While Antoine Fuqua's decision to update T*he Magnificent Seven* may not have drawn the same bile Paul Feig's *Ghostbusters* reboot/remake attracted, there are probably more than a few that would wonder what (other than name value) a retelling of the original could achieve.

The answer is a blockbuster movie that is almost slavish in its adherence to the Western genre and, in many ways, to the original, yet is vibrant and enjoyable enough to stand on its own two feet. It carries no pretensions or delusions to be anything other than what you would expect from a remake of John Sturges' original, and on that count succeeds with aplomb.

Fuqua burst on the scene with an explosion of tightly-wound fury in *Training Day* (starring, presciently enough, two of the seven in Denzel Washington and Ethan Hawke), but since then has been patchy, falling into generic action flicks. However, his work here is impressive, the climactic shootout in particular (which occupies a large chunk of screentime) wonderfully realised and balancing the need for action with servicing the story.

That the film is 132 minutes (and much of that is assembling the renegade titular group) Fuqua does a great job of allowing the story to develop at a slow, but never dull, place. While some characters are given greater emphasis than others, Fuqua allows the story to develop before culminating in a shootout that is both gritty and dramatic.

He doesn't try to move the film away from its genre roots either; the conventions of the Western (strangers being eyed up as they walk into town, buildings being burned, religion and violence melding into one) are all wilfully obeyed which, if you are a fan of the genre, makes for entertaining viewing.

Of course, it helps that he's assembled a strong cast to fill out his magnificent septet – Denzel Washington does righteous nobility in the face of adversity better than anyone, while Chris Pratt's rugged charisma gets another run-out here.

While these are the starrier of the seven, the more intriguing performances come from Ethan Hawke, whose character is hiding a secret, and Vincent D'Onorofio's frontiersman who is a man out of time. The script only hints at what lies beneath their characters, but the quality of their turns enhances the flimsiest of characterisation.

That's the biggest fault with the film as whole, that the characters are as flimsy as the sets you would find in the spaghetti westerns of the 1970s.

Some have more depth to them than others, but this all too often feels like an afterthought, and cliches abound with many of them (the weak town sheriff, the plucky but inept townsfolk) while Haley Bennett's Emma may be gun-toting, but her character doesn't really linger.

That aside, there's much to enjoy about *The Magnificent Seven* – it doesn't try to reinvent the wheel, nor does it offer anything fundamentally different to the original, but with a charming cast and a degree of energy, it's a pretty magnificent slice of action fun.

VERDICT: A remake that doesn't do a disservice to its progenitor, *The Magnificent Seven* is an enjoyable western that delivers all that you would want. The performances carry personality and charm, and Antoine Fuqua's direction makes the build-up carry pace and a climax that delivers on carnage. It may not be a particularly deep piece of work, but it's a satisfying one. *Enjoyable*.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *The Magnificent Seven* (1960), *3.10 To Yuma*

by GARETH JAMIESON
Follow Screen Talk on Twitter – @GEMScreenTalk

Variety show at Parish Hall

RIGHT: Duncan Norvelle

MICHAEL GEORGE'S London Varieties an evening of music hall and variety, comes to The Parish Hall, Dinas Powys on Saturday, October 8, as part of their UK tour.

The show stars Duncan 'Chase me' Norvelle. Joining Duncan will be local musical theatre singer Kelly Virgill and Michael George, variety acts, the London Varieties Showgirls, and a live band led by musical director Nigel Hart.

Michael George's London Varieties takes its inspiration from older variety shows, and offers the audience a good time through a series of traditional acts.

Tickets (£12) are available from Ticketsource on 0333 666 3366 or book online at www.ticketsource.co.uk/londonvarieties.

Ball is cancelled

Due to poor ticket sales. Y Bont has cancelled the Hallowe'en fancy dress ball which was to have been held on October 28 at The Bear Hotel, in Cowbridge,

Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D950.

- **£2,000:** 361477.
- **The rollover, which now stands at £4,500, was not won this week.**
- **£10:** 190823, 799058, 432481, 672849, 371278, 479693, 936738, 185983, 575456, 893376, 255848, 634986, 247760, 307286, 870665, 339468, 664409, 000224, 000766, 1647514.
- **£5:** 400406, 859102, 803101, 527908, 865819, 883012, 365475, 504465, 587796, 582482, 210953, 529498, 725294, 544380, 891247, 315985, 328584, 957398, 233247, 595108, 475198, 681655, 424363, 742916, 218262, 496400, 777591, 617667, 329118, 165196, 981669, 419625, 351012, 146910, 560639, 469743, 187810, 598878, 423035, 295117, 577700, 289796, 200897, 737347, 717164, 542919, 875396, 887695, 798877, 139809, 466725, 145224, 192908, 829786, 001037, 000606, 001575, 1220039, 1092096.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please telephone 029 2053 2300.

WHAT'S ON, AND WHERE?

Mayor's coffee

THE Mayor of Bridgend Town Council, Coun Robert Morgan, and Bridgend Town Council, are holding a Macmillan Cancer Support cake and coffee morning at Carnegie House Wyndham Street, Bridgend between 10am and 12 noon on Friday, September 30.

The Mayor would be delighted to welcome everyone to attend this event.

Keep your teeth!

NATIONAL Smile Month is a campaign to improve oral health care in our community.

Cardiff and Vale Dental are having a session aimed at the older person, who can have particular problems with oral healthcare due to medication, poor eyesight, weakness of arms or hands etc.

A health care professional will be available on Tuesday, October 4 from 10am to 12pm at Age Connects Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry. No appointment is needed, just come along. Call 01446 732385 for further information.

Telev Project Vale of Glamorgan aims to improve the quality of life of vulnerable people, helping them to manage living on their own with a simple, easy to use device.

An adviser from Telev will be available to chat to and will demonstrate the device. This session will take place at Age Connects Cardiff and Vale Senior Health Shop on Tuesday, October 4 from 10am to 12pm. Call 01446 732385 for further information, no appointment needed.

Beaujolais Day at Fonmon Castle

JOIN us at Fonmon to celebrate the day when bottles of Beaujolais Nouveau, the new wine from the first harvest of grapes in the Beaujolais region of France, are officially released.

On Thursday November 17 from 6pm to 10pm, enjoy an informative talk from our wine expert Charles Reardon-Smith from Wales Academy of Wine, while tasting three glasses of different Beaujolais wines in a relaxed and informal environment.

Afterwards, enjoy a leisurely two course tapas style buffet supper including a selections of French and Welsh cheeses.

Prices: £25.00 per person; tickets are strictly limited, so book now to avoid disappointment.

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Welsh star plans an ultra marathon for Marie Curie

Actor Mark takes on Beacons Ultra

WELSH actor, Mark Lewis Jones, will battle the winter elements in November, as he runs a 47-mile ultra-marathon in the Brecon Beacons to raise money for the Marie Curie Hospice at Penarth.

The Beacons Ultra, which in recent years has taken place in temperatures of minus 8 degrees, will push the Wrexham-born actor to his limits. He will climb 1,675 metres – almost double the height of Pen y Fan.

Earlier this year, he became a 'Pay for a Day' ambassador for Marie Curie and is aiming to raise £6,660, which is how much the charity needs to raise to run the Vale e hospice for a single day.

Mark, who is based in Cardiff, is best known for his leading role in the Sky One drama *Stella*, as well as roles in *Game of Thrones, Hinterland* and with the Royal Shakespeare Company. He is currently fitting his training regime around a busy filming schedule for his latest roles in *National Treasure* for Channel 4 with Robbie Coltrane and Julie Walters, and the second series of Welsh drama series *Byw Celwydd* which is due to screen on S4C early next year.

"I've seen firsthand the work that Marie Curie nurses and all the hospice staff provide," said Mark. "Not only do they care for people with terminal illnesses, but they also provide emotional support to their families and loved ones, and offer vital bereavement support for children, too.

"I know that this run across the Beacons is going to be tough, but I wanted to do my bit to support the hospice staff as they continue to care for people at the end of their lives, when they need it most.

"These amazing people will keep me motivated to get up those hills and through the wind, rain and snow to the finish."

In order to sponsor Mark, visit www.justgiving.com/fundraising/mark-lewis-jones.

Mark Lewis Jones training for the ultra marathon.

The Glamorgan Federation of Women's Institutes enjoy soiree

THE Orangery at Margam Abbey was the idyllic setting for a soiree organised for the members of Glamorgan Federation of Women's Institutes on September 20.

One hundred and thirty ladies from all over the county were greeted with a glass of buck's fizz as they arrived, followed by dinner.

During the evening, they were entertained by Mark Evans, baritone. Mr Evans amused them with stories and anecdotes about his life and he serenaded the ladies with a selection of favourite songs by, among others, Ivor Novello, George Gershwin and Gilbert and Sullivan.

The evening was a resounding success and Ann Davies, chairman of Glamorgan Federation and Ann Jones, vice chairman, were thanked for their hard work in organising such a wonderful event. ***JE***

Mark returns to Hensol Castle

THE Vale Resort has appointed a new resort operations manager for the day-to-day running of the hotel and Hensol Castle.

Mark McKnight (38), who lives in Cwmbran, was hotel operations manager at The Grand Hotel in Bristol, having previously worked at the Marriott in Swansea and the Celtic Manor Resort in Newport.

He has come full circle, as he was previously assistant resort food and beverage service manager at the four-star resort for two years, leaving in 2005.

Mark McKnight

Can you help Jasper find a new home?

JASPER is a lovely five-year-old lurcher, and although a little worried initially, he just needs someone willing to take their time handling him.

Jasper mixes well with other dogs and would benefit from living in a home with another well-adjusted dog.

He will need to live with patient owners who have trained difficult dogs before, and without children.

If you can give Jasper a loving home, please call 01656 725219, or visit the Bridgend rehoming centre's website at www.dogstrust.org.uk.

GAPS IN THE CURRICULUM

WHEN Grammar schools were largely abolished to establish Comprehensive schools, the error that was made was to drop from the curriculum several of the valuable subjects which had been considered essential for an informed adult – such as economics and social sciences, discussed among the pupils.

There is no virtue at all in reverting to divisive Grammar schools, but we must teach all children to form responsible views of human society.

Repeatedly, this Conservative Government has declared that school education aims to meet the standards of complacent businessmen, such as Lord Sugar, to prepare children for 'the world of work' as cogs in a monster machine – which intends to serve only the 'elite' who control and benefit from the profits.

That is a wicked travesty of what education seeks to achieve for the mind of every child – with lessons on topics such as civics and ethics, rights, duties and responsibilities.

These encourage pupils to think and discuss their own future contribution to the nation, so that one day, they will build a much finer, honest Britain, to be proud of.

N Westerman, Brynna

A talk on old photos

THE Rhoose and District History Society is hosting a talk by Ann Konsbruck and Margaret Jenkins on 'A Box of Old Photos'.

This will take place tomorrow (Friday, September 30), at 7.30pm in the rear hall of Rhoose Community Centre, Stewart Road.

Tickets on the door are £1 per adult; 50p child (under 16).

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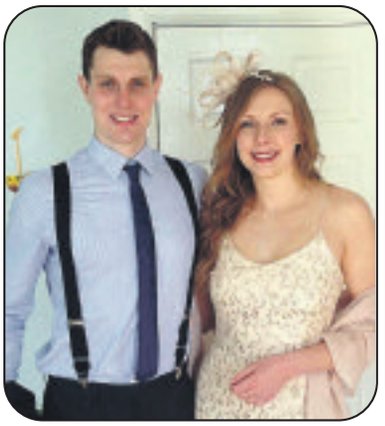
LLYSWORNEY MAN TURNS HIS IRONMAN CHALLENGE INTO A MARRIAGE PROPOSAL



EIGHT months ago, while munching a burger with his best friend Matt, and wondering how best to honour his grandfather's memory, 25-year-old Sam Davis from Llysworney, decided to enter one of the most difficult physical challenges in the world – the Ironman Wales – which took place at Tenby on September 18.

Never having done anything as physical as this before, Sam immediately started a gruelling training plan, with his family supporting him all the way.

Sam's dad, Simon, started work at 5am in the family business of SR Davis Ltd, a Barry-based wholesale poultry butcher, so this meant Sam could train for two hours before starting work at 7am – and continue his training after work.

His girlfriend, Georgina, drew up his training and nutrition plans and her dad, Matthew, served as Sam's cycle mechanic.

Through his eight months of training, Sam raised more than £2,000 for Velindre Cancer Centre.

Finally, the day dawned and supported by his family and friends, and along with 2,000 other competitors, Sam started his challenge of a 2.5-mile swim; a 112-mile cycle race and then a 26.2-mile marathon.

It took him 11 hours 40 minutes to complete the mammoth task, and he came through the finishing post holding a banner above his head saying "*Marry Me George*".

Georgina, a 25-year-old nurse based in the ITU unit at UHW was completely stunned and all his supporters burst into tears. (*She said 'yes' by the way!)*

The Llysworney couple, who met at 17 while in Cowbridge Comprehensive sixth form, flew to Portugal the next day for a well-earned week's rest.

ANNE ANDERSON

Your chance to see the group Jon Bon Jovi rates 'the best tribute band I have ever seen'

ONE of the most iconic bands of the 1980s, Bon Jovi, had platinum-selling albums and a plethora of anthemic singles around the world.

A spokesman for Bon Jovi's tribute band said: "'Livin' On a Prayer, the Bon Jovi Experience' are regarded by many as the world's first and finest tribute.

"The fact that they have performed live with Jon Bon Jovi himself and are featured on the official Bon Jovi website tells people all they need to know!

"The band has played all over the world and front man Tony Bon-Jovi can hold an audience like no other.

"If you want to rock 'til you drop, you'd better get to Barry Memo Arts Centre on Friday, October 7."

Jon Bon Jovi himself dubbed the band "The best tribute I've ever seen".

TV presenter and DJ Chris Evans also rates them highly, commenting: "They are just fantastic."

Barry school pupils form close partnership with care residents

All the children received a certificate to thank them for their involvement.

A PROJECT which brings pupils from Gladstone Primary School in Barry together with residents at Golau Caredig, Hafod Care's extra care housing scheme in Barry enters its second year this term.

Launched last September, the partnership has delivered great benefits for all involved, with pupils visiting every week to take part in a range of activities, a spokeswoman explained.

These included Christmas and St David's day concerts, an Easter bonnet parade, arts and craft sessions and games.

Year one culminated with a teddy bear's picnic with pupils, their families, residents and staff enjoying lunch in Gladstone Park. Each child received a certificate in recognition of their involvement in the project.

VALE PROVES A MAGNET FOR FOUR MILLION TOURISTS

ACCORDING to figures released by STEAM (Scarborough Tourism Economic Activity Monitor) nearly four million tourists made a beeline for the Vale during 2015, up 5.6 per cent on the previous year.

The exact total was 3.96 million, and the increase was 1.6 per cent greater than the south east Wales average – that meant an overall value to the economy of £219 million.

There were 2,947 jobs supported by money spent on tourism, a rise of 5.7 per cent on 2014; tourists spent 5.4 million days in the Vale last year, a rise of five per cent.

The council says it has taken steps to make the Vale more attractive to tourists. As part of the Creative Rural Communities initiative, new campsites, walkways and bridleways have been developed around the Vale.

There has also been large-scale investment to regenerate Barry Island, and an expanded events programme.

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THE LOCAL COMMUNITY RALLIES AROUND BEN WITH A SPECIAL GOLF DAY AT ST ATHAN CLUB

Left to right Paul Michael, Ady Hawkins, Gemma Brownhill and Luke Sloan.

Andy Mcyntyre, Paul Lindsay and Stuart Lindsay.

Mike Clark Terry Punter and Gary Punter.

St Athan Club captain Craig Sheman.

Lee Perry Gail Prosser JWG Morgan

ON Thursday, September 22, a charity golf day was held at St Athan Golf Club to raise money to help fund the treatment of Benjamin Morgan-Brownhill, who lives in Rhoose.

Adrian Hawkins and his wife Jackie, who are both members of St Athan Golf Club, came up with the fundraising idea after learning about Ben's battle against an extremely rare kidney disease (C3GN/MPGN-Type 1).

It is one of many events being held in the community to raise a staggering £175.000 needed to treat him and give Ben a chance of restored health – so the battle commenced and communities have united to give this delightful young man a chance.

St Athan Golf Club, when approached by Adrian and Jackie, embraced the idea and gave them 'courtesy of the course' to hold the event, with Leanne Gordon, the club's caterer providing delicious food for those attending.

Adrian and Jackie spent endless hours contacting local businesses and individuals for raffle donations and auction items, as well as obtaining prize money and sponsorship for the 18 holes to be played.

A total of 97 golfers took part on the day in the 18 hole, three man team stableford competition, with the best two scores counting on each card.

It was particularly nice to see several lady members supporting the event.

The weather was perfect as they played some fantastic golf throughout the day. The greens staff at St Athan had the golf course in perfect condition, which proved as always to be a great challenge to everyone participating.

By the end of play there were some excellent scores in the club house including four 'twos' by the end of the competition.

Those participating also had the chance to prove their skills in the nearest the pin and the longest drive competitions.

1st prize - Pete Williams, Willie Windsor & Jordan Isaac (78 s/f pts).

2nd prize - Paul Michael, Richard Michael & Luke Sloan (77 s/f pts).

3rd prize - Gill Jones, Terry Diaper & Maureen Anderson (76 s/f pts ocb).

Longest Drive, yellow tee - Nic Baldwin (E Cube Solutions).

Longest Drive, red tee - Sian Lovell (Cottrell Park)

Nearest the pin 6th Hole - Sian Lovell (Cottrell park)

Nearest the pin 16th Hole - Andy McIntyre (St Athan)

Ben's Mum Gemma presented the triumphant prize winners with their winnings as well as prizes for nearest the pins/longest drives and 'twos'.

Prize money for the day was very generously donated by Nathaniel Cars of Bridgend and Gareth Lucas from UK Hydroslides of Llantwit Major.

Following this the raffle and auction was held, with a fantastic array of items up for grabs to the highest bidders.

The bidding was cut throat as those present pushed up the bids to secure their lot and once again people dug deep into their pockets to ensure the monies raised were boosted.

All the hard work and effort was well worth it and at the end of the day at the 19th hole, Adrian and Jackie announced that they will be able to present Gemma with a cheque for an amazing £3,806.

Adrian and Jackie would like to take this opportunity to thank all the competitors and people who supported the event.

Adrian and Jackie said: "Special thanks go to St Athan Golf Club and their staff for the courtesy of the course and to the greens staff who as always, had the course in excellent condition.

"Without the generosity of all the sponsors, the individuals and businesses who donated prize money, raffle items and auction items, the event could not have taken place.

"We thank you sincerely for your tireless generosity, which has been overwhelming to Ben, his family and friends."

If anyone would like to donate to Ben's fundraising cause, they can do so by visiting www.gofundme.com/apriceonalife

AH & JH

BRA Day event

AN evening event in Swansea next month will give women the chance to share experiences of breast reconstruction and help others find out more about the surgery.

Coinciding with international Breast Reconstruction Awareness (BRA) Day, it will bring together patients, medical professionals and breast cancer support groups from 5.30pm – 9.30pm on October 19 at the Village Hotel in Swansea.

Contact Jill Isaac on 01792 703806, or email jill.isaac@wales.nhs.uk.

'NURTURE WELSH AT THE GRASSROOTS' – CALL

FOLLOWING a call by Plaid Cymru for more funding to ensure more teachers and assistants can use Welsh in the classroom, Welsh Conservative spokesman for the Welsh language, Suzy Davies AM, said that pupils who aren't in a wholly Welsh medium system need far more exposure to the language in the early years of their own education, to help them move away from the idea of Welsh as a second language.

"This goes hand in hand with everyday demonstration that Welsh exists outside the classroom – and is for use outside the classroom. This is where the language really lives.

"To achieve this, we need to work much more closely with businesses and public services to ensure that speakers of all levels, including adults who have missed out on learning Welsh, can feel confident to use and test their Welsh without judgment."

She added: "By including small bits of Welsh into everyday life, we can help grow the language from a grassroots level so that our pupils walk out of the school gates and into communities where they can use both their languages.

"This must be at the heart of our nation's Welsh language strategy."

Vale Explorer Scouts gain awards

SEVEN members of the Vale Explorer Scout unit were recently invited to a presentation night at County Hall in Cardiff – to receive their Chief Scout awards and to be inducted into the 14th Cardiff, Lord Mayor's Own ceremonial Scout troop, named in recognition of the service given by 14th Cardiff Scouts during the 1913 Sengenydd mining disaster.

As honorary members of this troop, they will be asked to undertake civic and ceremonial duties at events such as Remembrance Day and key official visits to Cardiff and the Vale area.

The awards are similar to the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme where participants undertake various challenges.

The Diamond Chief Scout's Award was awarded to Rob Lewis and Dylan Lloyd-Doyle and the Platinum Chief Scout's Award to Conor Wilkinson, Isobel Davies, Huw Mason, Izzy Lynn and Abbie Johnson.

Vale Explorer Scout Unit leader Kevin Hicks said: "I am extremely proud of the achievements of all these young people. They are a real credit to themselves and their families with the time and effort they put into their Scouting, and the local communities."

Explorer Scouts is the fourth section of the Scout movement and is for 14 to 18-year-olds. Many activities are made available and these include D of E, water or land-based activities as well as continuing to participate in the progressive award scheme of Scouting.

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Toby is looking for a quiet life

Toby the terrier cross.

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Toby has previously lived with cats and mixes well with other dogs. He loves to play with his toys and loves a cuddle.

If you can offer Toby a loving forever home, call us on 01656 725219 or visit the Dogs Trust Bridgend website www.dogstrust.org.uk.

David Emanuel mixes couture with coffee

David Emanuel.

FASHION designer David Emanuel is mixing cake with couture as he hosts his third Macmillan 'World's Biggest Coffee Morning' in south Wales.

Bridgend-born David, now finding a new thread of fame with the UK series of *Say Yes to the Dress* is hosting his Macmillan coffee morning in the gardens of Gileston Manor in the Vale on Friday, September 30.

The event at the manor is between 10am and 1pm on the same day that thousands of people in the UK will be baking and brewing for the World's Biggest Coffee Morning.

Funds from David's coffee morning will help Macmillan to provide services for people with cancer.

David said: "I am thrilled to be hosting my third World's Biggest Coffee Morning for Macmillan. My Macmillan nurse was a great support to me when I was diagnosed with cancer, so it's fantastic to host a coffee morning which will help Macmillan to fund its services for people with cancer."

Admission to the coffee morning is £5 on the gate, with proceeds going to Macmillan.

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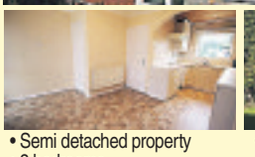

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Expressions of interest

homes4u HOTLINE 01446 700111

WAIN CLOSE, PENARTH

United Welsh Housing Association, with the Vale of Glamorgan Council announce the new development at **Wain Close, Penarth Heights.**

Expressions of interest are invited from Homes4U members. Properties are due to complete in December 2016 and a local lettings policy applies to this scheme.

- One, two-bedroom house
  Rent £102.09 per week including service charge
- Four, three bedroom houses
  Rent £103.74 per week including service charge

ST DAVIDS MEADOW, COLWINSTON

Hafod Housing Association, together with the Vale of Glamorgan Council, announce a new development of properties at St Davids Meadows, Colwinston.

Expressions of interest are invited from Homes4U members with a local connection to Colwinston (local work, family or life connections).
A local lettings policy applies and preference will be given to applicants with a medical priority.

- One, one-bedroom flat with level-access shower
  Rent £78.88 per week plus service charge.

RO MORGANNWG

THE QUAYS, BARRY WATERFRONT

Newydd Housing Association, together with the Vale of Glamorgan Council, announce the new development at Reflections, The Quays, Barry Waterfront.

Expressions of interest are invited from Homes4U members.

- Three, two-bedroom houses
  Rent £104.47 per week including service charge

OCEAN VIEW, OGMORE BY SEA

Newydd Housing Association together with the Vale of Glamorgan Council, announce the new development at Ocean View, Ogmore by Sea.

Expressions of interest are invited from Homes4U members.

Six, one-bedroom flats
Rent £83.83 per week plus service charge

Three, two-bedroom flats
Rent £90.11 per week plus service charge

- Communal entrance
- No pets allowed

To apply call the hotline, e-mail us at HOMES4U@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk
or apply in writing to: Vale of Glamorgan Council
Environment and Housing Civic Offices
Holton Road, Barry CF63 4RU

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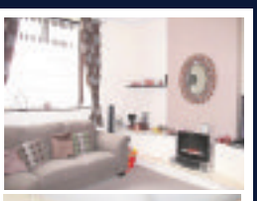

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Environment and Housing
Civic Offices, Holton Road
Barry CF63 4RU

APPLICATION DEADLINE: 5 OCTOBER 2016

All Homes4U properties have double glazing and central heating unless otherwise stated and will be allocated to the maximum occupancy.

It may take longer to rehouse you if you are awarded medical priority as there is a shortage of accessible and adapted homes in the Vale.

CHESTERFIELD STREET, BARRY

H4U reference 204589

- Two-bedroom house

Rent £109.07 per week including water charges

EDWARD STREET, BARRY

H4U reference 208913

- Two-bedroom flat
- First floor

Rent £87.77 per week including water charges

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H4U reference 230899

60 and over with medical priority

- Two-bed bungalow
- Level access shower
- Warden and alarm

Rent £105.20 per week including water and warden charges

GLANMOR CRESCENT, BARRY

H4U reference 210203

- Two-bedroom flat
- First floor

Rent £87.83 per week including water charges

GLYNDWR AVENUE, ST ATHAN

H4U reference 248688

- Three-bedroom house

Rent £111.41 per week including water charges

GRAYBURN HOUSE, BARRY

H4U reference 135398

Local lettings policy applies - no children

- Two-bedroom flat
- Fifth floor (lift)

Rent £101.70 per week including service charge

JEWEL STREET, BARRY

H4U reference 213815

55 and over

- One-bedroom flat
- First floor
- Community alarm

Rent £93.36 per week including water and alarm charges

PHILIPPA FREETH COURT, BARRY

H4U reference 135403

55 and over

- One-bedroom flat
- Second floor (no lift)
- No alarm/warden

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PROCTOR CLOSE, BARRY

H4U reference 221939

55 and over with medical priority

- One-bed bungalow
- Warden and alarm

Rent £110.73 per week including water and alarm charges

SHAKESPEARE ROAD, BARRY

H4U reference 223080

- Two-bedroom house

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H4U reference 983422

- Two-bedroom house
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TY CERRIG, BARRY

H4U reference 135362

55 and over

- One-bedroom flat
- Ground floor
- Sheltered - not on site
- Community alarm

Rent £92.00 per week including service charge

WILLIAMS CRESCENT, BARRY

H4U reference 228286

- Two-bedroom flat
- Ground floor (steps up)

Rent £91.59 per week including water charges

WINDSOR CLOSE, LLANTWIT MAJOR

H4U reference 236805

- Three-bedroom house

Rent £111.52 per week including water charges

Visit the HOMES4U web page to view homes available immediately
www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

No pets

Vale of Glamorgan Council | Hafod Housing Association | Newydd Housing Association | United Welsh | Wales and West Housing Association

You must be a HOMES4U member to apply for any of the rented homes.

When bidding for more than one property you will be asked to state your order of preference.

All descriptions and other details are given in good faith and are believed to be correct but any potential tenant should satisfy themselves as to their correctness.

SHARED ACCOMMODATION PROJECT

Newydd Housing Association together with the Vale of Glamorgan Council are looking to pilot a Shared Accommodation Project.

Expressions of interest are invited from single female H4U applicants under the age of 35 who would be interested in this project.

You would be sharing a two-bedroom property with another applicant.

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Family Notices

PROSSER
Adrian

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Adrian Prosser, a long time resident of Llantwit Major, a strong and loving father and a good friend to many. He loved art, literature and music, and in retirement Adrian learned to sail and travelled much of the world.

Adrian will be sorely missed by his wife Diane, his children Alan, David and Paul, grandson Owen and granddaughter Seren.

A funeral service is scheduled for 3.45pm at Coychurch Crematorium on Tuesday, October 4, with a gathering in his honour at The White Hart in Llantwit Major afterwards.

BOTWOOD
Heather

Passed away on September 21, much loved sister of Peter and Noreen and aunt of Deborah, Sarah and Ned.

She will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her.

Funeral service at St Catherines Church, Kings Road, Cardiff at 1.30pm on Monday, October 3, followed by interment at Cardiff Western Cemetery. Floral tributes may be sent to J. Pidgeon & Son Ltd, 539 Cowbridge Road East, Cardiff, CF5 1BD.

BROWN
Ronald William

Peacefully at the Bellavista care home, Barry, after a long illness on September 23, Ron, formerly of Dunster Cottage, South Road, Sully. Dearly beloved husband of Barbara, much loved father of Jeremy, Terry and Christine, loving grandfather and great grandfather to all his grandchildren.

Resting at A.G. Adams and Son, Tynewydd Funeral Home, Gladstone Road, Barry, until his funeral service in the chapel on Wednesday, October 5 at 2pm, followed by cremation at the Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry at 3pm. Family flowers only but donations in lieu of flowers to Alzheimer's Society, Oldwell Court, Ty Gwyn Road, Cardiff, CF23 5DA.

SMART
Daniel Thomas

Peacefully on September 19 at Llandough Hospital, Daniel Thomas (Dan), aged 89 years, of Barry. Dearly loved husband of Betty. Beloved father of the late Terrence (Terry).

Dan will be sadly missed by all of his family and friends.

Resting at A.G. Adams & Son Funeral Home, Gladstone Road, Barry, until the funeral on Thursday, October 6. Funeral service and Committal at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road East, Barry, where family and friends please meet at 3pm. Family flowers only, if desired, donations may be handed to the funeral director after the funeral for Air Ambulance.

DERBYSHIRE
Peter

It is with great sadness that the family announce the passing of Peter on September 7. Devoted husband to Kathy and a much loved dad of Debbie, Samantha, Racheal, Richard and their families. A special brother to Gwen.

He will be greatly missed by all his family and many friends.

Peter is in the care of Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale Funeral Service, 181 Court Road, Barry until his service at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium on Tuesday, October 4 at 1pm. Family floral tributes only. Donations, if desired, may be made at the service to support the Wales Air Ambulance and Barry Dock RNLI in memory of Peter. Funeral arrangements entrusted to Lyndsay Ellis 01446 407962.

MONTGOMERY
Dorothy (Dot)

Peacefully on September 22 at Bellavista Nursing Home, Barry. Dot beloved wife of the late Alf. Much loved mum to Linda, Janet, Andrew, Julie and the late Kay. Respected mother-in-law of Trevor, Phil and Lynda also a cherished nan and great nan to all her grandchildren.

Dot will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her.

Resting at the Vale Funeral Service, 181 Court Road, Barry until her service at Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road East, Barry on Monday, October 3 at 11am. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, may be made at the service to support Cardiff and the Vale Breast Cancer Now in memory of Dot.

Further enquiries contact Nicola Ellis, 01446 407962.

GRIFFITH-JONES
Glenys Margaret

We are very sad to announce the passing of a wonderful wife, mother, grandmother and great grandmother on Sunday, September 18 at Llandough Hospital in the presence of her family. Greatly missed by her beloved husband Roger, sons Martin and Julian and daughter Verity. Much loved by her twelve grandchildren, partners and six great grandchildren.

No words can describe how much she will be missed by all her family and friends.

Resting at A.G. Adams & Sons, Barry until funeral service on Tuesday, October 4 at 11am, followed by committal at Barry Crematorium. The family send their thanks to all her home carers and the nursing staff on Ward East 7 at Llandough Hospital who gave her and them such loving support through this difficult time. Flowers may be sent to funeral home. Donations, if desired, to the Dementia ward, East 16, Llandough Hospital.

GATT
Carolyn Jane

Peacefully on September 22, loving partner to John and much loved daughter to Lilian and Philip. Cherished sister to Michael and Rachel, caring sister-in-law to Sonia and Deri and beloved auntie to Rebecca, Joseph, Olivia and Sophie and devoted nanny to Rileigh.

Resting at Park Funeral Directors, 7 Tynewdd Road, Barry. Funeral service to take place on Monday, October 3 at All Saints Church, Barry at 1pm, followed by the committal at The Natural Burial Ground, CF5 6SG at 2pm. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, can be made at the service in memory of Carolyn to Marie Curie Holme Tower, Penarth.

REID
Eric

Sadly passed away at the University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff on Saturday, September 24.

Funeral service will be held at Coychurch Crematorium on Thursday, October 6 at 2.15pm. The family would like to thank the doctors and the nurses of the Critical Care Unit for their care and attention.

JONES
Guy Treharn Howel

Peacefully at home on September 25 with his family. Guy, much loved husband of Fran, a good friend to all, will be sadly missed.

Funeral service at St Dochdwy Church, Llandough on Tuesday, October 4 at 2pm, followed by interment. Family flowers only.

In Memory

LEE
Phyllis

In loving memory of our wonderful mum Phyllis Lee

We never ask for miracles
But today just one would do
To see our front door open
And our dearest Mum
walk through.

Missed so very much, from all your loving children

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Acknowledgements

VENNERS
Peter

Jean, Stephen and Jonathan would like to say a big thank you to all the family and friends who came to celebrate Peter's life. Also, many thanks for the cards and flowers received by us all.

To Cannon O'Gorman, thank you for conducting the funeral service with dignity. Many thanks to Lyndsay Ellis for everything, and to St Andrews Golf Club. Our heartfelt thanks to all the staff on the first floor, Marie Curie, for the devotion and comfort given to Peter, it was greatly appreciated. Last but not least, many thanks for the donations to Marie Curie.

DRISCOLL
Frances Clare

Tony and Thelma would like to thank Canon Pat O'Gorman for the beautiful Mass of the Requiem. Also, the Angels of St. Barrachs unit, Barry Hospital who cared for Frances for four years and the Forge Care Centre where she received the kindest gentlest care, and to all who joined us in the service.

We will remember you all with love.

Birthdays

Happy 50th Birthday
Andrew Williams
on 6 October

Love Mum, Dad & Family xxx

Ann Brinsdon
Happy 80th Birthday
on 4th October

Lots of love Dad, Ian, Fay, Cristina and Jared, and all your friends and family xxx

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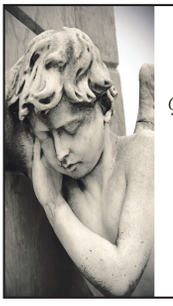

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EILEEN'S WISH COMES TRUE AS RENEE IS REMEMBERED AT TENOVUS CONCERT

PHOTOGRAPHS by JOHN O'BEIRNE

THE Concert in the Park took place at Belvedere Park, Barry, last Saturday. There was singing from the 'Barry Tenovus Sing with Us Choir', the 'Vale People First Real Lives Choir' and 'Young People's Rap Group' and South Wales Police Band.

On the day, Vale Mayor, Coun Stuart Egan, told those gathered at Belvedere Park that Tenovus choirs offered a true message of hope, adding that the organiser of the event Eileen Moore had a very special reason for inspiring it.

Coun Egan explained: "Founded by 10 businessmen in 1943, Tenovus has become one of the most pioneering and successful charities in the field of cancer research.

"Tenovus Sing with Us choirs are fun, uplifting and friendly, and are open to anyone affected by cancer whether they're a patient, survivor, carer or someone who has been bereaved through cancer.

"Supported by lovely volunteers who make sure all new members feel welcome, the Barry choir is no exception – it's a friendly, smiley group which started in September 2013.

"Many members of the Barry Tenovus Choir are survivors or have experience of the trauma of cancer. The choir are a fantastic support for each other and also send the message of hope to anyone else affected by the disease. It's not just a choir, but a community. Singing is everywhere and singing is in every one of us.

"I would like to thank all involved today, but especially the organiser Eileen. who, last year, wanted to do something nice to remember her late sister and thought it would be nice to hold a concert especially as many other people have lost dear ones.

"Eileen's twin sister Renee was the first woman in the world to trial a new drug and, although she knew it would not help her, she agreed to undergo the treatment for the benefit of others.

"I am sure there will be many more 'Concerts in the Park' to come. All proceeds today will go to Tenovus."

Vale Mayor Stuart Egan, event organiser Eileen Moore and Jane Hutt the Vale's Assembly Member.

Ploughing maestros show how it's done – with tractors or just the old-fashioned way

On Sunday, September 25, the Vale of Glamorgan Ploughing & Hedging Society held the annual ploughing match at Little West, by kind permission of Graham David and family of Norton Hall Farm. Graham is this year's president of the society and a long-time supporter.

Over 40 tractors and horses turned up after a night of heavy rain, which made it difficult for lorries to enter the field. However, the day turned out to be very successful, in spite of one or two heavy showers.

The four teams of horses were a great attraction, showing how ploughing was done in years gone by, in comparison to today.

All classes of ploughing were supported with a good standard of workmanship and the ladies were also putting in a good show.

The Ferguson Club staged the Welsh Dragon Championship for the Ferguson T.20 – or the 'little grey fergy' – which is 70 years old this year, having been produced in Coventry from 1946 to 1956 by Harry Ferguson.

The judge, Arthur Williams from mid-Wales, remarked on the improvement over the years in the standard of ploughing in this class, with the popularity of the T.20 and GP Plough continually growing.

The results of the ploughing match were:

Ferguson T.20 Class: Champion, John Evans; runner-up, Graham Jones; third, Will Jones; fourth, Andrew Drinkwater; fifth, Basil George.

The sponsor for the Class was Ledley Engineering, Llandow.

Horse Ploughing: First, Roger Smith; second, Kym Williams; third, Michael Puxty.

Class 1 - Open Vintage Trailer, first Andrew Isaac.

Class 3 - Classic Class: First, Jeremy Jacobs; second, Ceri Richards; third, Andrew Thomas.

Class 5 - Novice-Conventional Multi Furrow: first, Jamie Isaac; second, Rebecca Lewis; third, Peter Batchelor.

Class 6 - Commercial Reversible: First, Mike Thomas; second, Robert Mathews; third, Edward Thomas.

30 Minute Class: First, Mike Thomas; second, Adam Llewellyn; third, Lloyd Thomas.

The Alban Wilde Perpetual Trophy was awarded to Mike Thomas for the best work done by a Glamorgan competitor in Class 6.

The Edwin Leonard Memorial Trophy was awarded to Jeremy Jacobs for the best work done on the day by a Glamorgan competitor.

Glamorgan Farmers Club Trophy was awarded to Edward Thomas (Gileston) for the best work done by a Glamorgan competitor aged 26 or less.

PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

OTHER PICTURES ARE AVAILABLE FROM THIS EVENT.

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Telephone 07791 228684
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COMBINED SERVICES FALL TO RYDER CUP LOSS AT ST ATHAN GOLF CLUB

EVERY September the Combined Services and the Civilians come head-to-head in their Elwyn Parry Ryder Cup tournament.

The competition is the culmination of the seasons matches in which 24 golfers have qualified for the event and another eight are captain's wild cards.

The competition originated in 1992 and since then little has changed with the formalities and format - match-play foursomes in the morning and match-play singles in the afternoon, each player having one point available to them for victory in each of their matches.

The players assembled in the clubhouse the evening prior to the competition for the much awaited draw which resulted in a challenge that 'on paper' was too close to call.

Both teams were optimistic that they could break the deadlock on the coveted honours board; apart from one year when there was a draw, the Combined Services now have 11 wins to their name and the Civilians, after being victorious last year, also stand at 11.

At exactly 8am, with jokes and light-hearted insults abundant, the first match teed off and the battle commenced, all competitors striding out with purpose.

Elwyn Parry (after whom the tournament is named) had a permanent smile engrained on his face as the Civilian pairings stormed the leaderboard, winning six of the matches and halving the remaining two.

It was the first time in history that the Combined Services' team would start the afternoon singles matches with no chance of any of them getting two points alongside their name.

Undeterred they were all aware that winning the overall challenge was the main purpose of the event and even though they had a mountain to climb it was still achievable.

Alas, as the matches concluded, they, and their team captain Gary Bohun, were dismayed to see that the leaderboard was becoming increasingly weighted in favour of their opponents.

It soon became apparent that the Civilians would have their name appended onto the honours board and their captain, Craig Sherman, was ecstatic to watch them do it in style – match after match returning in with points being added.

For them the afternoon games produced nine wins, only three losses and four matches were halved, resulting in a truly remarkable overall victory, 18-6.

The Combined Services' team were gracious in their defeat however they fully supported their captain when he 'threw down' the challenge for 2017 by performing the traditional gauntlet across the face.

Gary was over-exuberant and the gauntlet had been struck before Craig had the chance to accept, so with much hilarity it was declared null and void, forcing a replay of the said challenge, thankfully all captured on video for prosperity!

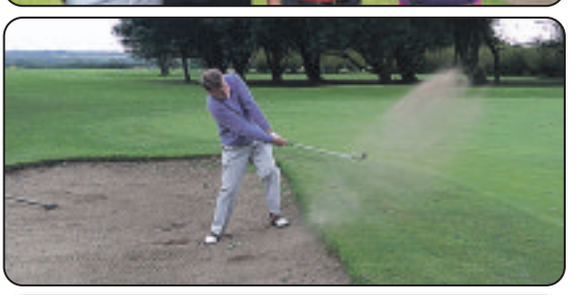
Formalities finalised it was agreed by all present that the Elwyn Parry Ryder Cup is one of the most significant dates in the club diary.

Being a member of St Athan Golf Club gives you the opportunity to be involved with a tournament that unites all players of the club.

The challenge video and all photographs from the day can be found on the club's Facebook page.

For more information please phone 01446 751043.

CM



Barry Town back to winning ways with a five goal victory

BARRY Town United returned to winning ways at the weekend with a 5-2 triumph over Caldicot Town in Welsh League Division One.

Spurred on by a crowd of 386, Barry defender Luke Cooper connected with a corner to break the deadlock in the ninth minute, scoring his first goal in Town colours since arriving at the club in the summer.

Poetically, Cooper's opener came at the Gladstone Road end of Jenner Park, the same side of the ground that Dave O'Gorman propelled Barry ahead against Aberdeen, 20 years ago to the very day.

As with two decades beforehand, the early goal set the tone for an entertaining 90 minutes, though visitors Caldicot showed far more than their league position might indicate; with homegrown Alex Jarman a particular threat, despite spurning a golden opportunity from close range.

Recovering effectively, forward Jarman would be responsible for Caldicot's equaliser in the 25th minute, deftly flicking the ball home from a lowly-planted free-kick to beat Barry goalkeeper Mike Lewis at the near post.

However, Jarman's achievement was still being announced over the Jenner Park PA system when Barry regained their advantage; newcomer Tyrell Webbe finishing from close range after a quickly-taken set-piece, before celebrating with some spectacular acrobatics.

Hitting the crossbar and the post before the first half was out, Barry took their 2-1 advantage into the break and despite relying on a timely block to keep the scores level, the second half saw Gavin Chesterfield's side seize command.

Forward TJ Nagi, who had previously struggled with series of injury setbacks, has been one of the club's most exciting players in recent seasons and Nagi showed a glimpse of his prowess with a brisk one-two punch, powering Barry into a seemingly-unassailable 4-1 lead.

Staring at a fourth league defeat in five, Caldicot showed no intent of rolling over though and the Gwent side would reduce the arrears shortly afterwards when Jarman scored his and his team's second; firing beyond Lewis, after running inside from the right.

Nevertheless, this anniversary afternoon would belong to Barry Town and the enthusiastic home crowd would leave with smiles on their faces after substitute Louis Gerrard tapped home their fifth; scoring with what appeared his first touch, following a low cross in from the left.

Saturday's 5-2 victory helped the Town rocket back up the Welsh League Division One table; leaving them level with leaders Goytre on 14 points with an equal plus nine goal difference.

As the season's early contenders begin to stake their claims, Saturday, October 8, serves up what could be Goytre's biggest test to date, in the form of form outfit Ton Pentre; the Bulldogs having won in each of their last three Division One outings.

At the same time, Barry will entertain Risca United at Jenner Park (2.30pm), in what is consistently a hard-fought and engaging fixture.

However, the coming week sees cup competition take priority, with the Town travelling to the CCB Centre for Sporting Excellence on Saturday, October 1, for a Welsh Cup first round match with Aberbargoed Buds, before hosting a buoyant Cardiff Metropolitan University at Jenner Park in the Nathaniel MG Cup on Tuesday evening, October 4.

After a difficult start, the Met have won three Welsh Premier League fixtures on the bounce, defeating Llandudno, Newtown and Aberystwyth Town to climb to an impressive fifth place in the national top flight.

As a result, Barry Town will need to be on top of their game when the two sides meet in the expanded Welsh Premier League cup competition; with kick-off at Jenner Park set for 7.45pm and extra-time and penalties to separate the sides, if necessary.

AC

Lions thank sponsor

Park Lions under-8s and their coaches Gino and Steven would like to say a huge thank you to Ken and Sarah of Catch and Despatch Delivery Services for sponsoring them this season.
The teams are looking forward to another great season - if you'd like any further information about the club please contact Kim on 07772 955635.

Barry Seconds' momentum is cut short by Llanishen

BARRY RFC Second XV were hoping to carry the momentum gained by their first win of the season into the league visit of Llanishen.

Coach Rhidian Scott and Ken Chow were once again handed a long list of players being unavailable and so were forced to juggle their resources once more.

The starting line-up showed no less than nine changes from the side that beat Old Penarthians handsomely last time out.

Playing with the elements and slope in their favour, Barry moved to take the advantage in the first interval, and despite a rusty start, which was expected from the number of changes, slowly began to dominate in the tight.

The scrum, in particular, was impressive, but neither side were helped by the official who seemed intent of blowing his whistle at regular intervals with decisions that baffled spectators, coaches and players.

It was Barry who came out on top with these exchanges, and after Tom Adams was denied a try on the touchline by a dangerously high tackle which somehow did not result in a penalty try, Barry recycled the ball and made their territory tell when John Dimond crashed over from close range. Joe McCann was unable to add the extras.

Llanishen showed that they were dangerous with ball in hand, but were made to pay just minutes later when over elaboration saw Luke Bounds intercept from halfway and race clear to score his second try in as many games. McCann stroked over the conversion to hand his side a 12-0 lead.

However, from then on, the momentum swung. After the home side had valiantly held out on their line and McCann cleared the apparent danger, some non-existent tackling allowed Llanishen to saunter through to score a converted try with not a hand laid on the attacker.

With Cieran Thomas being forced off with a broken thumb, more disruption was brought to the home side and the visitors took full advantage of the confused defensive line to score before the break and take the lead.

With Seb Vidal withdrawn at half-time following possible concussion, and players now playing out of position, a comeback seemed unlikely.

Barry did put on some early pressure in the second half, but as a rolling maul neared the Llanishen line, the official somehow stopped play to award the hosts a penalty, despite Barry looking to gain the advantage by scoring a try.

The penalty came to nothing and some smart, incisive play, combined with some poor tackling, saw Llanishen increase their lead with an unconverted try.

Barry seemed to run out of ideas and would not be able to force an unlikely comeback, and instead it was the visitors who crowned their victory with a fourth try.

Barry second XV visit St Josephs this weekend.

Team: Hamonda; F Peake, G Peake, Bounds, Adams; McCann, Dimond; Hall, Evans, Brown; McTavish (c), Deyes; Jones, Thomas, Vidal. Replacements: Turnbull, Hewitson, Leech, substitute not used: Fortt. Man of the match: Deyes. Referee: M Aherne. **KC**

Barry Seconds put opposition to the sword in East District Cup

AFTER a slow start to their season, Barry Second XV travelled the short distance to local rivals Old Penarthians for the first round of the East District Cup, hoping to reverse their fortunes.

Coach Rhidian Scott and caretaker manager Glyn Pirso were boosted by the return of several absentees, and the squad saw a balance of forward power and finesse out wide.

Barry soon found that they had the advantage out wide, and with captain Joel Williams at fly-half pulling the strings, they soon put their hosts to the sword.

This is not to say that the pack were mere bystanders; Barry were also dominant up front with Chris Deyes particularly outstanding, especially in the line out.

Late inclusion Brad White took full advantage of his side's dominance, running in four tries to add to his personal haul against the same opposition two years ago.

Chris Chucas, on his first start of the season, bagged a brace, while Luke Bounds, another one to play his first game this campaign, also crossed. Dylan Robertson bagged himself a try and five conversions before he was withdrawn from the action.

Joel Williams and Dave Evans also crossed the try-line as Barry completed the rout and ease into the next round of the cup competition where they will face Pontyclun away on October 8.

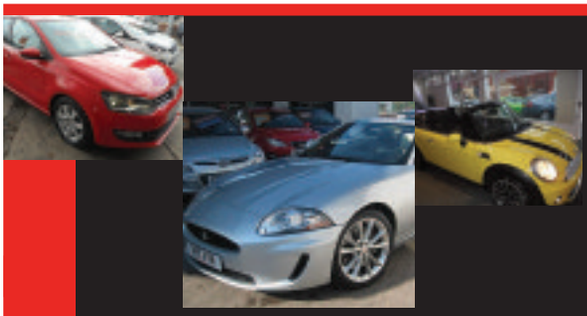
Team: Robertson; C Chucas, White, Bounds, Peake; J Williams (c), Dimond; Hall, Evans, Fortt; Deyes, Brooke; Clarke, Thomas, Rolfe. Replacements: M Williams, Jones, Hewitson, J Chucas, Leech. **KC**

Boxing club has reopened

THE refurbished Rhoose Boxing Club has opened its doors for the start of the new season after the summer break.

A long-serving club for the community and the Vale, it has produced a very high standard of boxers over many years and is held in a high status in the boxing world.

If interested please feel free to try us out - contact us on 01446 412508 or 07929 428240. **LB**



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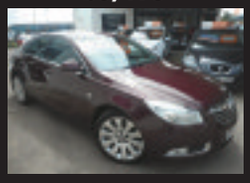

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62 SEAT Ibiza 1.2 TSi SE 5-Dr Automatic In silver, only 13,000 miles **£6,995**

12 FORD Focus 1.6 Titanium 5-Dr In silver, 70,000 miles, nice example **£6,995**

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100 per cent start continues for Vale United

VALE UNITED continued their 100 per cent start to the season in this pulsating encounter against a youthful AFC Rhoose side.

Vale came into the game having not conceded in three previous games, while Rhoose had taken just two points from their opening four games and resided one from bottom of the league.

Vale were once again forced to make changes, with Thomas Hopkin slotting in for the absent Rhys Edwards at right-back, skipper Richard Evans returning to partner Steve Harris at centre back and the fit-again Phil Caseley returning to the boiler house.

There were also recalls for target man, Nathan Jenkins and Jay Tominey in the front three, as Vale looked to extend their perfect start to the campaign.

The afternoon got off to an awful start for the hosts, with Rhoose taking an unexpected lead inside the first 30 seconds.

Some hesitant defending allowed the ball to bobble through to the Rhoose number 10, who managed to poke the ball under the advancing Gerwyn Teague and into the corner of the net.

It was a fairy-tale start for the visitors, though scoring so early can often prove to be more of a hindrance to some teams, not knowing whether to stick or twist on their quick-fire start.

Vale's free flowing football, which has catapulted them to the top of the league, was sadly lacking in the opening exchanges, but their battling qualities were the for all to see and it was these qualities that led to the equaliser.

Some tenacious work down the right hand side by Tominey, saw him clip a beautiful ball over the top of the experienced Rhoose centre back for Nathan Jenkins to latch on to, the frontman applying the finishing touch with a deft lob over the stranded visiting 'keeper.

It was another goal to add to the rugged forward's scrapbook in an impressive debut season following his move from Bryncae.

The goal dented Rhoose's self-belief and Vale started to get a foothold in the game, finally beginning to play the exciting brand of football which has served them so well, so far, this season.

They came close not long after, a superb, drilled cross from the left-hand side by Jack Dummett just about evading everyone in the box and going behind for a goal-kick.

However, the second home goal wasn't long in coming, this time coming from the penalty spot after some clever work from Dummett saw him taken from behind in the box, leaving the referee no choice but to award the penalty and the defender lucky to escape further action.

It was once again up to skipper, Richard Evans, to take the spot-kick and for the third time in four attempts this season, he slotted the ball home comfortably to give the home team a well-deserved lead.

Vale mounted wave after wave of attack in the hope of doubling their lead before half time, with the returning Phil Caseley and Matt Hobbs the creative influences and Joe Williams his usual, all action self but they were unable to grab a third goal before half time and went into the half-time interval satisfied with what they had, especially after the shock of trailing so early on in proceedings.

The hosts came out after half time hoping to pick up where they left off but were unable to replicate the tempo and quality of football they had shown in glimpses in the final 15 minutes of the first half, whilst also looking untroubled at the back.

With the next goal likely to be crucial to the outcome of the game, neither team seemed happy to take any risks and it became increasingly likely that a set-piece would provide the next goal and so it proved.

Some more selfless work from hefty centre-forward, Nathan Jenkins, saw him clipped on the edge of the box and for the second week running, midfield lynchpin, Matt Hobbs produced an exquisite free-kick that flew over the wall and nestled in the top right-hand corner of the 'keeper's net.

This was as good as it got for United, uncharacteristic errors throughout the team putting themselves under pressure, though the drive and commitment from each player was still on show for all to see, numerous last ditch tackles and blocks ensuring they kept their two goal advantage for the majority of the half, although Rhoose did pull a goal back with 10 minutes to go.

Some slack marking in the hosts box saw the visitors' number 6 head home unchallenged from 10 yards out.

It very rarely looked like kick-starting a memorable comeback, however, and Vale saw out the rest of the game in rather comfortable fashion and in turn maintaining their 100 per cent start to the season. **GT**

Presidents XIII too strong for Lionhearts

IN the first game of a brand new Welsh representative side, created to bridge the gap between the full international side and the Wales Dragonhearts, the Wales Presidents XIII eventually eased to a win over West of England Lionhearts, but not without the odd scare over the 80 minutes.

The Welsh players came from all over the nation, from North Wales Crusaders to South Wales Ironmen and a number of the top community clubs, all wearing the shorts and socks of their club side, and they took on an equally broadly representative side from south-west England's community clubs.

And it was the English who took the lead despite some early pressure for the Welsh, Joe Uren going over in the corner, but Jamie Deal failed to land the conversion.

Wales soon hit back, Rhys Gant, fresh from winning a trophy at the South Wales Scorpions' awards night hours early, made a clean break and scored under the sticks.

Mike Hurley easily converted to make the score 6-4, and following a short break due to an injury, Wales further increased their lead. Dean Higgs going over from dummy half and Hurley making it 12-4.

With his first touch of the ball after coming on as a sub, Harry Boots was sent in under the sticks for Wales' third try. Hurley's kick made it 18-4.

West of England hit back following an error in the Wales backline. The former Cardiff Demons centre and Malta international Paul Bartlett took advantage by scoring just short of the left corner. A great kick brought the score back to 18-10.

But the Welsh addressed the balance before the interval when Lewis Hughes was sent over in the corner. Hurley sliced the kick wide but the Welsh had a healthy two try lead.

West of England took first blood in the second half with Kyle Phillips scoring in the corner and Deal missing the kick, the score being brought back to 22-14.

The Welsh hit back straight away with Ethan Coombes using his strength to score on the right centre. Hurley's conversion attempt hit the post and went in, to give his side a 14-point lead.

A try under the sticks for Shane Lee, converted by Hurley extended the advantage further. Morgan Jeffries scored the next but it was a touch of class from Gant and Josh Stafford-Smith that gave him the try near to the sticks and the Hurley goal bringing the score up to 40-14.

Jeffries soon went over again for a good individual effort with Hurley nicely placing the goal through the black dot, but his West Wales Raiders team-mate couldn't join him in a brace, Boots fumbled whilst under pressure when diving for the line.

They reached the 50 with the last play of the game. Lee Goddard setting up Dean Higgs to go under the posts and Gant adding the final points with the conversion, the final score 52-14. **IG**

The Vale of Glamorgan Football League round-up

VALE United remain undefeated and sit six points clear at the top of the Premier Division as they continued their perfect start to the season with a 3-2 win over Rhoose.

Cowbridge Town got their first league win of the campaign with a stunning 5-1 demolition of Barry Athletic in somewhat of a surprise result.

Elsewhere, St Athan and Penarth Town kept in touch with the leaders, St Athan edging out Tynewydd 2-1 while Penarth were in seventh heaven as they won 7-2 against Masons Moving Group. Dinas Athletic won a tight affair 3-2 against Island Marine.

In the First Division, Barry Belgrade became the new league leaders with a 3-0 victory over Cadoxton Athletic while FC Pumas were held 1-1 by Dockers. Barry Athletic B saw off Sully Sports 5-2.

Second Division leaders Cadoxton Imps continued their 100 per cent start to the season with 3-0 triumph over Barry Albion.

BVFC drew level on points with Barry Saints in second with a 1-0 win over FC Pumas B, while St Athan B won for the second week running with a 3-2 victory over Rhoose B. Finally, Penarth Town B went fourth with 4-2 win over Island Marine B.

This week is a reduced league program with the second round of the Barry Cup.

Game of the day in the leagues should be FC Pumas vs Sully Sports in Division One, while in the cup there are several intriguing ties with Division Two high-fliers Barry Saints looking for a giant killing against Premier Division leaders Vale United.

SP Billy will be looking for second Premier Division upset, meanwhile, as they play Rhoose. **HD**

CAVC rugby team defeat the champions

CARDIFF and Vale College's Rugby Academy team has secured a 15-14 win over reigning champions Coleg y Cymoedd in the final round of qualification matches in the WRU under-18 Midweek League.

Previously unbeaten in 28 games, Coleg y Cymoedd finished the first half 14-0 in the lead but the visitors from CAVC hit back in the second.

Centre Dafydd Smith and replacement full back Tony Lamerton both scored tries, one of which was converted by outside half Ben Thomas, who also landed the last minute penalty which took the final score to 15-14.

CAVC director of rugby, Martyn Fowler, said: "The wins puts us ahead of year two in our five-year strategy and it's particularly pleasing as Cymoedd have not lost a game in the league going back 28 matches to October 2012.

"For that length of time they have set the benchmark for us and everyone else in Wales, if not the UK. We now have to make results like this the norm and not the exception – and then we'll be happy!"

New pool league launch a success

THE Vale of Glamorgan Pool League would like to thank The GEM for its help in launching this new Thursday night venture.

There's been a surprising high level of interest in only the first two weeks of this venture.

The aim of this league is to promote 8 ball pool and establish not one, but two county teams to play in the welsh pool association interleague.

Plans are in place for a competition in Barry for the best players to compete against each other in a very competitive tournament.

The best players going forward to play for the two county teams. We have known for a long time, this area is blessed with some outstanding pool and snooker players.

All they need is a platform to compete where they can show their prodigious talents.

Chris Bardsley and Ryan Rowlands are two players who quickly spring to mind.

For those who have not signed up yet, there's plenty of time to do so.

Here's a list of local pubs looking for one more team to join the league: the Master Mariner, Tadross Hotel, the Castle, Fizz Bar, the Liberals, the Buccaneer, the Savoy snooker club, the Sea View, Finnegans, Ship Hotel and Fontygary Inn and the Sully Sports club, all wanting one more team to join the league.

Any enquiries please text Joe on 07870 498 738 or email valeofglamorganpoolleague@gmail.com. **JB**

Sea View Lads angling results

RECENT fishing competitions have enjoyed mixed support but some good fishing has been enjoyed by those making the effort to turn up.

The same goes for the boat section where some good fishing is on tap.

As ever, then social side of the club continues to be active with a successful trip to Weymouth recently being held where anglers weighed in 12 different species, including fish that we rarely see locally such as black bream, garfish and mackerel.

The first leg of the Golden Maggot was won by Aida Harris, Mike Langford took second with Mike Kerslake in third. All to fish for on the second leg since you would only be chasing four species!

The autumn species are in so there is plenty to fish for and winter is around the corner so dust off those rods and come along for a session!

RESULTS

September 21: 1st P Coles 1lb 2oz. September 18: 1st P Crook 9lb 2oz, 2nd P Coles 3lb 6oz, 3rd A Harris 13oz. September 11: 1st A Harris 7lb 07, 2nd K Salah 6lb 12.

August 28: 1st A Harris 26lb 11oz, 2nd K Salah 13lb 5oz, 3rd C Mcinery 10lb 15oz, 4th P Coles 10lb 4oz, 5th P Crook 9lb 7oz, 6th M Langford 5lb 5oz. August 24: 1st M Langford 7lb 7oz, 2nd S Doble 4lb 2oz. **JC**

Your chance to play hockey!

PENARTH Hockey Club launch Primary Outreach Scheme to promote hockey in primary schools in Penarth and the Vale.

Following the success of the GB Ladies Hockey team at the Rio Olympics, Penarth Men's Hockey Club, with support from Community Chest, have launched an initiative to promote and support the take up and on going development of hockey in primary schools in Penarth and across the Vale.

The scheme entails the provision of kit, coaching and coach training for teachers in the schools and the on going support for teachers and participants in terms of skills uplift.

The aims of the initiative are - to increase the number of primary aged children enjoying hockey; to increase coaching standards; to increase junior club membership; to support kids having fun through hockey in a safe environment.

The first phase covering five primary schools is already underway and further phases will bring more and more schools in to the scheme.

Further information on the scheme for schools and parents can be obtained from Judith Powell (judepowell 2307@hotmail.co.uk) or David Stevens (d_stevens81@hotmail.co.uk).

In the meantime, Penarth Hockey Club training continues every Wednesday at Stanwell School, 6.15pm-7.15pm for juniors from six-years-old, 7pm-8.15pm for seniors. **JP**

Barrivale Bridge Club results

LATEST results from Barrivale Bridge Club for September 20:

1st Mike Close & Kay Dyer 60.00%; 2nd Mick Green & Sean Macdougall 58.75%; 3rd Helen Jordan & Judith Owen 57.50%.

Helen Jordan and Judith Owen won on handicap.

New members are always welcome at Barrivale. A partner may be arranged if required.

If you would like to join us ring 01446 418380 or 01446 733425 or 01446 735592 call at the Pioneer Hall, Beryl Road, Barry on Tuesdays at 7pm.

Alternatively players, inexperienced or new, may attend on Fridays at 10am at the same address. **DR**

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Cowbridge RFC's 13 men put in brave effort against Wattstown

LAST Saturday Cowbridge travelled into the Rhondda Fach to take on Wattstown and despite a heroic effort went down by 34-10.

With late withdrawals Cowbridge set off with 13 men and with Wattstown having a full complement and substitutes the task looked daunting, but by the end of the match there was admiration from all quarters for a superb effort.

Wattstown had their first opportunity after 10 minutes with a penalty awarded for being in front of the kicker. Their outside half demonstrated, as he did all afternoon, what a very good kicker he was.

On the 16 minute mark Richie Howson, playing at flanker made a break upfield; the ball was recycled and then livewire scrum half Hywel Williams moved play to the left and a dink over was gathered by flanker Connor Wyatt who made great yards being stopped just a few metres out.

It took until the mid-point for Wattstown to use their numerical advantage fully, their left wing breaking in field and linking up with the midfield to give the outside centre room to break through for a converted try.

There were further scores for their lively scrum half and a further penalty before, following a bump and a swab down from the magic sponge, Howson charged down a clearing kick and beat the defence to the line. The half-time score was 20-5.

In the second half there was more great defence until 15 minutes in, and seemingly from a forward pass, Wattstown's second row went over for a converted try. But back came Cowbridge, Howson sprinting away from a penalty and being stopped just short.

The ball was recycled and driven over by Kieran David but with six minutes left Wattstown again were able to use their extra men to put their no 7 in near the corner.

Again the outside half put over the conversion.

Unbelievably, Cowbridge wouldn't lie down and with one of the last plays outside half Alex Guard fielded the ball, beat two men, chipped ahead and then, in a race for the line, just knocked the ball ahead of himself as he tried to touch down.

Great credit must be given to all the players but special mention up front for Kieran David, Rhod Walker, Connor Wyatt, Geraint Thomas, who showed some excellent distribution, and all-action Richie Howson for their driving, mauling and tackling all afternoon. There was a massive effort behind the scrum too.

The youth travelled to Builth Wells in the cup and ran out winners by 5-55.

With excellent ball won up front Builth had no answer to the Cowbridge lines of running and off-loading behind the scrum.

There were tries for Max Cunnington (3), Lloyd James (2), Joe Nott, Bevan Howells and Haz Ashby. Howells also added six conversions

This Saturday is a must-win match for Cowbridge first XV at home to St Albans. All players are asked to make their availability known to coach Dan Williams by Thursday.

The following week we have a tough away fixture in the second round of the bowl at Cambrian Welfare. Tough though it looks, to get a good result there would be a massive fillip.

The youth are at home to Glamorgan Wanderers this Saturday and the Saturday following away to Mountain Ash.

RV/RK

LOCAL DARTS ROUND-UP

ON Tuesday, September 20, a full programme of league matches in the Cowbridge Darts League was completed.

The Edmondes B's strong start to the season continued with an 8-1 over the Victoria Inn. The Farmers B decided to give themselves a more interesting name: the Hairy Farmers - after beating Llanharry 7-2.

The Highwayman Inn beat the Edmondes C 6-3, the Farmers Arms beat the Red Lion 9-0 and the Six Bells Inn beat the Edmondes A 5-4.

Individual performance highlights were Rob McCaver (Hairy Farmers) hitting a 180 and Mandy Edmonds (Six Bells Inn) a 106 three-dart-out.

Present league standings, after three weeks, are: Edmondes B (23 points), Edmondes A (18), Six Bells Inn (16), Farmers Arms (15), Highwayman Inn (14), Victoria Inn, Llanharry, Edmondes C and Hairy Farmers (12) and Red Lion (1).

Next week, Tuesday October 4, we have another full programme of league fixtures.

The Victoria Inn hosts the Edmondes C, the Edmondes A hosts the Hairy Farmers, the Farmers Arms hosts the Edmondes B, the Red Lion hosts the Six Bells Inn and the Highwayman Inn hosts Llanharry.

All matches start at 8.15pm and spectators are always welcome. For further information e-mail Paul at cowbridgedarts@gmail.com and visit www.darts.apsn.co.uk.

PJT

The Cowbridge under-11s embark on some festival fun!

COWBRIDGE RFC under-11s travelled to Penallta RFC on Sunday to take part in their second festival rugby of the early season.

Cowbridge managed to field two teams to take part in both Group A and B of the festival, with the Tigers and Bears running out respectively. Lessons had clearly been learned from their first few fixtures of this season.

First up for the Tigers were Tonyrefail. The opposition started strongly running in down the right wing for an early 1-0 lead. The Tigers clawed their way back with some great defence from the pack, hard hitting in the tackle.

The backs started to play the ball through the hands with Will Brennan creating the opportunity for Harry Smith to stretch the Tonyrefail line with his probing runs. The confidence continued to build and the Tigers started to dominate the game.

The pack created the space for the backs to test the opposition out wide, a quick interchange from Charlie Barkley-Smith and Jacob Robson saw the ball fall to Joe Davies with quick hands feeding Jake Davies on the wing to run in the equaliser just before the final whistle, score 1-1.

The Bears were up first against the powerful RTB Ebbw Vale outfit whom they had just lost out to in the final of the Newbridge tournament two weeks earlier.

The match-up saw a battle at the breakdown with the well-drilled RTB spoiling and constantly turning over ball at the ruck. The packs entered a battle of attrition with counter-rucking throughout the game.

Cowbridge appeared to come out on top with the platform created for the back line to run the ball over with Harry New finishing in the corner however he was deemed held-up on the line. The second half continued in similar manner with Cowbridge getting the better at the ruck but just unable to finish off the game. Final score 0-0.

The Tigers' second game saw them drawn against Mountain Ash who had impressed in their first outing. From the kick off Mountain Ash returned the ball for an immediate 1-0 advantage.

Despite some excellent defensive showing under sustained pressure the Tigers just couldn't keep Mountain Ash out and a second try followed. The Tigers were determined to keep the opposition in their own half, which they managed for most of the second period succumbing to a try just before the final whistle, losing out 3-0.

In group B, the Bears found themselves matched against Oakdale for their second game. The team started strongly flying out to an early 3-0 lead with some sublime passing and unselfish play culminating with three tries for Harry New running in from the outside centre position.

The forwards continued to exert their dominance with formidable crunching tackles from Ioan Phillips and George Tuckley freeing up the ball for Osian Bruce to extend the lead to 4-0 at the half.

The second half continued in the same vein with James Collingridge controlling play from the number 10 position calling one of the many set plays for James Lord to come into the back line from the full back position and weave his way over the try line for the fifth.

There was still time for the Bears to notch up another two with James Lord again demonstrating strong running from the full back position and a great team try seeing the ball fall to Jake Davies in the right wing to slide over for an impressive 7-0 victory.

The Tigers' third game was against the hosts Penallta. Clearly with a point to prove the Tigers came out ready to perform.

From the kick-off Leo Beghini pushed the opposition back with direct running at the back line. In only his second game for the Tigers, Owen Francis kept the momentum building with darting runs down the wing. The pressure told and Josh Canning found himself in a great position converting the opportunity into the first try of the game.

Penallta struggled to contain the Tigers pack with Joe Funtek and Corey Williams driving hard, leading to loose ball falling to Harry Smith to go over the line for a 2-0 advantage.

The second half saw Owen Francis get one of his own with a strong run down the right wing and the Tigers' third. Despite a consolation Penallta try, the well-disciplined Cowbridge pack had Henry Whitehouse take the ball over for the Tigers' fourth. Final score 4-1.

The third game for the Bears was against a strong Aberdare team. Cowbridge started slowly and despite allowing the Aberdare team to dominate at the breakdown, an opportune break away saw Harry New score for a half-time 1-0 lead.

With questions asked during the half-time team talk by the coaches, an invigorated Bears team took to the field. From the kick, a dummy run ended with Harry New stretching the defence and he couldn't be caught for a try in the left corner.

Now fully woken from their slumber and the usual power from the forwards, a well-worked team try ended with Jake Davies adding a third unanswered from the right wing. George Tuckley then took the ball over from the pack with a fantastic barnstorming run through the middle and Harry New taking another superb team try worked through the backs.

The game finished with a dazed Aberdare throwing a reckless pass intercepted by Ned Rees making the usual nuisance of himself in the face of the opposition and running in from the halfway line to cap an impressive 6-0 win.

The Tigers' final group game was against the well-drilled CRICC outfit. The opposition exerted an early lead, quickly going 3-0 ahead by the half with Cowbridge unable to contain the opposition.

Following yet another half time talk from the coaches the Tigers came to the field in the second half with a clear hunger and desire to take the game back. Excellent covering tackles from the fullback position by Osian Bruce left CRICC unable to build their lead further and yet more strength from the pack culminated in Ioan Phillips smashing his way through to put the Tigers on the scoreboard.

A valiant defensive effort from Ollie Gale, Jimmy Williams and George Tuckley in the forwards failed to keep CRICC at bay and they managed to go over for two late tries finishing 5-1.

In their final game the Bears were up against another new opposition, Whitehead RFC. With their confidence in full flow and the kicking game from James Collingridge, Whitehead were immediately on the back foot.

Trying to kick themselves out of pressure, James Lord took the high ball and returned it with interest, running in to the Whitehead try line and passing out wide for Harry New to score the first. The Bears didn't let Whitehead out of their half and the power of the pack, with continued pressure from Sam Jackson, Ioan Phillips, Henry Whitehouse and George Tuckley, led to handling errors from Whitehead presenting Sam Sheppard with the opportunity to touch down a loose ball for a second try.

Two quick tries from Ned Rees and Jake Davies had Cowbridge going 4-0 ahead at the half. Wishing to finish off the day as well as they started the Bears didn't disappoint with strong running from Joe Arentsen leading to a slick off-load from James Collingridge to Osian Bruce running an angle through the midfield and storming over the line.

The newly-developed kick-return game that Cowbridge are quickly turning into a fierce attacking weapon completed an excellent display of running with James Lord taking the ball and running in a cross-field return for 6-0 to the Bears.

The Bears conceded their only try of the day switching off at the very last play and Whitehead passing the ball out wide for a try from the left wing. Final score 6-1.

An excellent display of rugby from both teams with the Tigers taking runners-up spot in Group A and the Bears team of the day in Group B. Well done to you all.

AL